

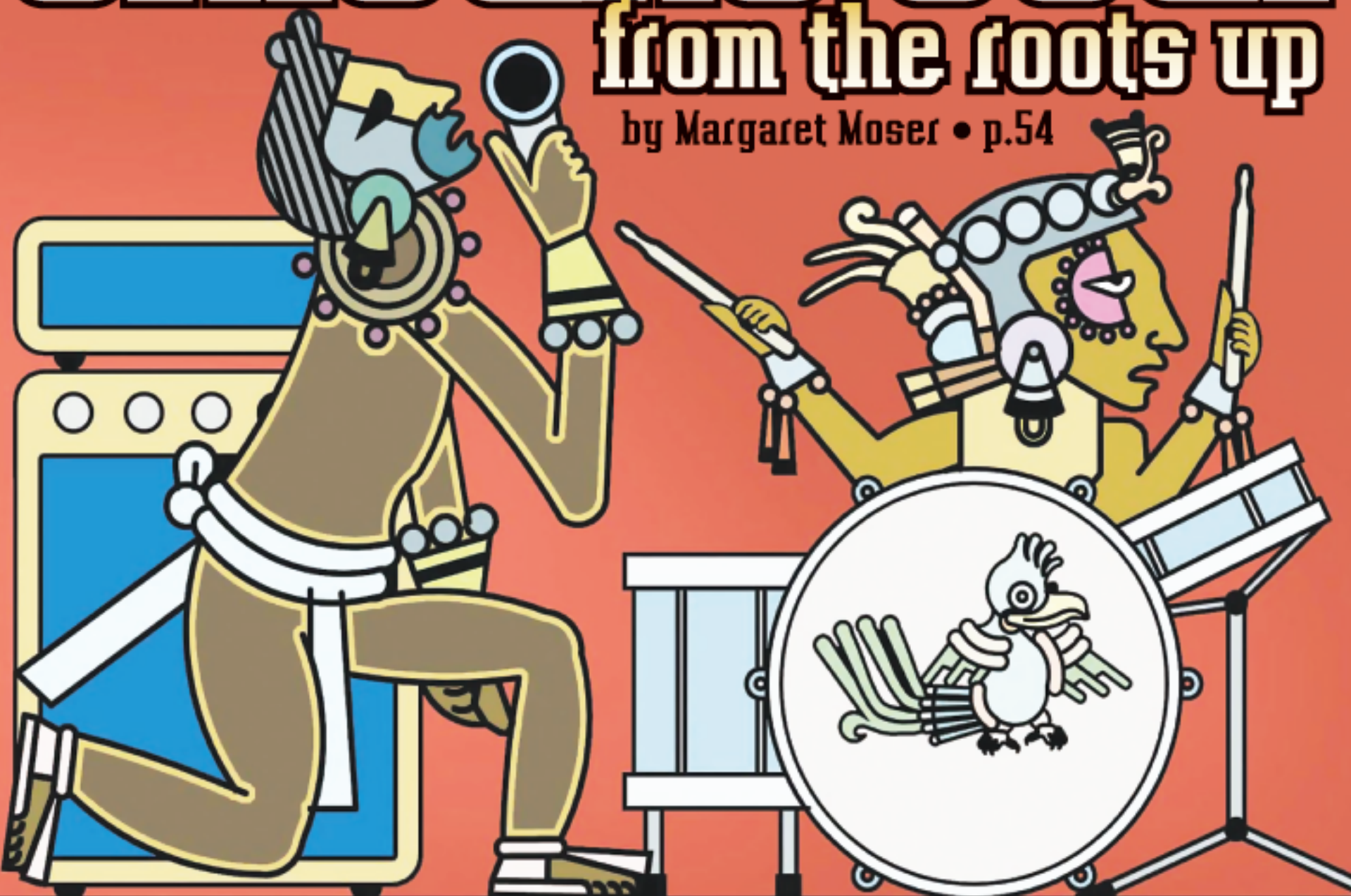
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EARACHE!: Schadenfreude scratches the **UNDERBELLY** of 2007, Girlie Action surveys the **LOCAL LADIES**, plus more lists, afterthoughts, and some **HATER-ADE** to wash it down

PICTURE IN PICTURE: Film, TV, games, and more fun with **MOVING PICTURES**

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THE GAY PLACE: LOOKING BACK ON 2007, QUEER-LY. Plus: The Kates and friends tell it like it was.

NEWSDESK: DEMOCRAT surprises, long-forgotten **REPUBLICANS**, unexpected **LIBERTARIANS**, and wildly waving **TASERS**

THE SCORE: Andy Denham on **KEVIN DURANT's** rookie season, and more sports blatherings and whatnot from here and afar

 web extra

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Careless Love

In 1969, Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash sat down with their friends to make some music. The results are joyful, legendary, and unreleased.

BY LOUIS BLACK

There are many legendary lost albums – some never released, others released but so halfheartedly that the few copies that were released are essentially impossible to find. There have been many different reasons for these albums never coming out. Sometimes an album was announced, but recording never even began, while other projects were abandoned before recording was finished. Sometimes the problem was the label's very different take from the artists' on the quality/commercial potential of the album, while other times the acrimony was among band members or with the group's management. Probably the single biggest cause has always been the artist's dissatisfaction with either the work or its contemporary music climate. The Beach Boys' *Smile* is easily the most famous example of this problem, though now it is available in more different forms than George Jones' repackaged country hits. The Beatles, the Who, Townes Van Zandt, Bruce Springsteen, and Prince, among others, have recorded albums that were never released, or at least were not issued as the artists would have preferred. The grand master of unreleased material, as with so many things, has to be Neil Young. Not only does he have God-knows-how-many finished but unreleased works in his archives, but also never released are the only recordings of one of his earliest bands the Mynah Birds, with Rick James and Bruce Palmer, Young's future Buffalo Springfield bandmate.

I'm hoping, of course, that some of you have read some of my long, long interview

with legendary producer Bob Johnston that has been posted on the *Chronicle's* website, austinchronicle.com. There is now posted a working discography of all the albums he produced (neither complete nor including singles). This is a list chock-full of so many masterpieces, including Bob Dylan's *Highway 61 Revisited*, *Blonde on Blonde*, *John Wesley Harding*, and *Nashville Skyline*; Simon & Garfunkel's *Bookends*, *Sounds of Silence*, and *Parsley, Sage, Rosemary and Thyme*; Leonard Cohen's *Songs From a Room* and *Songs of Love and Hate*; *Johnny Cash at Folsom Prison* and *Johnny Cash at San Quentin*; Lindisfarne's *Fog on the Tyne*; and the first four Michael Murphey albums; he also co-produced Willie Nelson's *Who'll Buy My Memories*.

A recording of Bob Dylan and Johnny Cash together, performing maybe 15 songs, recorded in a Nashville studio in February 1969, is one of the acknowledged great unreleased albums produced by Bob Johnston. I've been listening to a bootleg of these recordings and thinking about them a lot lately. In every way, the recording is quintessential Johnston. It features his strengths as a producer: It is clear everyone is having a great time; the performances are unique, laid-back, and flowing; the playing is crisp; and the sound is very good, with a micing system that captures it all. The other ways in which it is so typically Bob Johnston are not as meritorious. Way too often, writers buy Johnston's crap: that he really didn't do much on many of his albums but just let the artists go off on their own. They also tend to underestimate the quality

of his recordings. All too often, these Dylan/Cash recordings are regarded as being more important historically than musically. This week, I'm writing about it again because I've been listening to it over and over. Sure, crucial to the enjoyment is the awareness that two of the great musical talents of the past half-century are sharing an intimate performance. Recently, however, playing it over and over, I've come to fully love it as music.

The two voices together almost always work; sometimes they know the same version, and sometimes they veer away from each other while also cleaving closely. The more I listen, the more its charms grow on me, while the problems fade. Some songs sound as if they were rehearsed for a long time; others sound as though the two musicians had never met. "Careless Love" wanders down many a pretty country road on its leisurely journey to wherever it is going. The rich, dark contradictions of "You Are My Sunshine" are clearer in the Dylan/Cash version than in many others. In the best tradition of Daniel Johnston, they cover "Good Ol' Mountain Dew." Cash does a hymn at Dylan's suggestion, though it becomes very obvious very quickly that Dylan remembers little of the song.

I'm not sure who plays in the band. I'm virtually certain it's Carl Perkins on guitar, both because of the sound and because Cash calls out his name any number of times. Although when I asked Johnston about this, he couldn't remember.

Any story involving either Bob Dylan or Johnny Cash comes in so many versions that it's nearly impossible to separate myth from reality. Adding them together just generates more fog while adding no clarity. Cash (accompanied by June Carter Cash) first met Dylan (accompanied by Joan Baez) in the early Sixties at the Newport Folk Festival. Listening to Johnston's story, one gets the impression that Cash was a bit in awe of Dylan, especially as a writer. Although they clearly perform as

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The *Chronicle* offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 31, and Tuesday, Jan. 1, and will reopen for regular business hours Wednesday, Jan. 2.

equals, the recording sounds very much as though Dylan is acquiescing to Cash. This could all be in my head, but it sure does sound like Dylan is working at it a lot more than Cash – which detracts not a whit from Cash's performance.

The great Richie Unterberger, in the All Music Guide (www.allmusic.com), observes that, "the pair run through easygoing, rockabilly-tinged versions of Dylan songs, Cash songs, old Sun rockabilly chestnuts ('That's All Right Mama' and 'Matchbox'), and a bit of country gospel. Cash, in fact, dominates the proceedings: He sings lead more often, and the mere two Dylan tunes ('Girl from the North Country' and 'One Too Many Mornings') are outweighed by a larger heaping of Cash classics ('Big River,' 'I Walk the Line,' 'I Still Miss Someone,' 'Ring of Fire,' 'Guess Things Happen That Way'). The CD might even appeal more to Cash fans than Dylan ones, especially as Dylan's singing is not up to scratch: his timing is off, he often sings on one note, and he even needs to be occasionally cued by Johnny for the right words."

Unterberger underestimates the charms of this record. Dylan's often in fine voice, trying out different tones and even yodeling.

These recordings came about, as Bob Johnston recalls, when he was producing both Cash and Dylan: "Dylan and Cash together was quite remarkable. Once while Dylan was in town, I remember I was recording Dylan, I think, in the daytime, and Cash at night, if I'm not mistaken. Cash came in or Dylan came in to ask me, 'What are you doing?'

"What are you doing?" was my response.

"Recording," they said.

"Well, I am, too." I went back to work. I think they went to get something to eat. They asked if I wanted to come. 'No, I'm going to stay here,' I answered.

continued on p.8

Clarification Last week's "Return to ACC's Room 221" implied that Ron McMahan tested recently obtained dust and air samples at the behest of Corinne Irwin; in fact, Irwin says McMahan offered to perform the testing on the samples but did not act on any request from her. Also, the only room having renovation and abatement performed is room 221; Austin Community College officials say room 318 (the chemistry lab above 221) was already fully cleaned and brought up to modern standards in 2005. (See "ACC: Rio Grande Is Safe," p.10, in "Postmarks.")

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"While they were gone, I put lights in the studio, made it look like a damn nightclub. Set up all the microphones out there, guitars, all of that. When they came back, they looked out there and saw it. Looked at me and never said a word. They went outside into the studio, sat down, and we started recording songs. And, after about 2 hours and 30 songs later, I said, 'Well, what about this?'"

"We're finished," Dylan said.
"CBS never would release it, because they said it wasn't exactly together. Cash said, 'Well, look at my 45,' and Dylan said, 'I've got my 45,' and he said they've got to say the same words. It's the most fucking amazing, asinine thing I've ever heard in my life. But one day, there are 30 or 32 sides there. They'll release it, and when it does, it'll be a triple platinum album like it was supposed to have been."

When one listens, it is apparent why these tracks were not released by Columbia at the time. Even Cash said, "The songs had no starting place and no stopping; we'd get into them and everyone would join in. ... Bob and I did 'Careless Love,' whatever we might know the words to. ... There's a song or two that's good enough to put out, but there's not an album there." What doesn't make sense is that they have never been released.

In a previous "Page Two" about this recording, I wrote, "Johnny Cash and Bob Dylan cut in Nashville a couple of decades back. Rather than a focused recording session, this was more in the vein of sitting around, play-

ing together, and enjoying each other while producer Bob Johnston ran tape. Although they recorded more than 30 cuts, only 'Girl From the North Country' has ever escaped from the vaults. Columbia decided that the recordings were too crude and unprofessional to release.

"The very awkwardness of this casual, friendly, back-porch type of performance is a significant part of what makes it so enjoyable. Compared to the professional composition and cohesive presentation of most serious artists' music as released by major labels, the relaxed sloppiness found here is both foreign and friendly. The sheer fun the two are having playing together is intoxicating. They both forget lyrics (though Cash seems to need to cue Dylan more than vice versa) and, as they are playing, discuss who should take the first verse. They do an overly long version of 'Careless Love' that could have kept on keeping on even longer without raising any complaints from me. The song is traditional, with authorship of various versions claimed by everyone from W.C. Handy, Lonnie Johnson, and Bessie Smith to Fats Domino, Dock Boggs, and Janis Joplin. One of the lines refers to a gun that Cash identifies first as a .44 caliber, then Dylan labels it a .38, and then a .45. By the end of the song, Cash has identified it as a .30-ought-6 (a rifle rather than a pistol). At one point, however, in order to hit a rhyme, Cash calls it a .41 (which doesn't exist). He's so pleased with this that, just a bit later, he again refers to a .41, and you can hear the absolute delight at this silliness in his voice.

"Especially noticeable throughout the recordings is just how sweet and lovely Dylan's singing and harmonies with Cash are. Someone once asked Bob Johnston how much of an influence Cash had on Dylan's singing. In particular, they pointed to *Nashville Skyline*, the first Dylan album recorded in Nashville that was clearly rooted in traditional country. Dylan had already recorded *Blonde on Blonde* and *John Wesley Harding* with Johnston in Nashville, but it's hard to think of the former as rooted – it's so of American music while being completely transcendent – and the second is so generously eccentric. Johnston pointed out how Dylan was always experimenting and had significantly changed his vocal style and tone on each of four albums in a row: *Highway 61 Revisited*, *Blonde on Blonde*, *John Wesley Harding*, and *Nashville Skyline*. Still, Dylan's singing on the bootleg offers a fullness and clarity of tone that complements Cash's singing while strongly reminding one of *Nashville Skyline*."

Everything I liked about this recording the first times I listened to it, I've come to grow even fonder of with each repeated play. The line in bold up above is evidence of just how much damage lazy research can do to a piece. When I wrote that, I was not even really thinking about guns. Instead, I was trying to convey how sweet, funny, and human these recordings are. Most of the response to the piece was letters from gun experts assuring me that there is indeed a .41.

The very best music, for me at least, is genuine, created because it's absolutely nec-

essary to the artist's life to create it. To create is to live; not to create is worse than death. I truly believe if Neil Young hadn't made it in the music business, he'd still be playing every night at some local bar.

In these times of lazy sarcasm and casual cynicism, too many regard enthusiasm and affections as bourgeois pabulum – the milky, meaningless cream of wheat of dominant ideology. Sincerity exposes one, leaving him or her vulnerable to being mocked. Passion insists on its own integrity, leaving little room for maneuvering socially. In these terms, if art doesn't offend, then it is empty. Displays of passion, humanistic joy, and blind love for anything leaves one embarrassed and vulnerable. Sentiment is the heroin of complacency. Even worse, one's peers might find that one lacks both the proper distance and contemptuous attitude toward sincerity so necessary to sneer at the world.

In the midst of the most cold-blooded nihilism being trumpeted, wherein hatred is prized and vicious dismissal of culture is the critical currency, two men sat down with their friends to make some music. Their affection for each other, as well as their passion for the music, allows them the purity of the naive while establishing their greatness as artists. This was music being made for the love of making music. If you can find these recordings, you'll discover the driving force was not to make money or score more chart hits; it was to make music, just as they had always done, that was of and about life.

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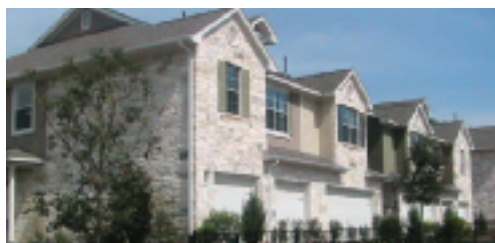


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ACC: Rio Grande Is Safe

Dear Editor,

The Austin Community College District works daily to promote and maintain a safe and healthy environment for the ACC community. The college takes a proactive approach and addresses any potential or identified problems promptly.

Misinformation regarding a renovation project at Rio Grande Campus resulted in "Return to ACC's Room 221: Mercury or mystery?" [News, Dec. 21]. The fact is RGC has been extensively tested by qualified environmental professionals. Built in 1916, the building has undergone updates. When an area is remodeled, ACC works with qualified experts and appropriate city review and planning groups to ensure all applicable building codes are met.

The project in question is the remodeling of room 221, located under a chemistry lab. The chemistry lab was remodeled in 2005 and is now a modern instructional laboratory, which meets appropriate safety standards. This section of the building has been tested for mercury by four independent environmental testing companies. At the request of ACC, the Texas Department of State Health Services also performed mercury-vapor monitoring. In addition, ACC enlisted the services of a board-certified toxicologist to observe testing and interpret results. In each case, the professional opinions have been that the levels of mercury did not

pose any health risk. As stated in the article, the tests found little evidence of mercury beyond normal atmospheric conditions and well within the level the federal government recognizes as safe for a daily work environment.

ACC will continue to take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of our students and employees. Precautionary testing will continue through the room 221 remodeling process.

Dr. Stephen B. Kinslow
ACC president/CEO

Decision Must Be Appealed

Dear Editor,

Reactions from neighborhood associations and planning teams are reverberating across Austin from the initial defeat of the Northcross Mall/Wal-Mart debacle. That anti-neighborhood ruling cannot become a precedent-setting decision for Austin and must be appealed.

Because of the ruling, past legal decisions and present objections from the neighborhoods mean nothing in Austin. Our city will no longer be held accountable for previous actions. Our city can choose where and when enforcement of their own laws are convenient. Unfortunately, this isn't the only time city laws have not been enforced. And, as usual, it's all about money.

The conflict of interest provision (City Ordinance No. 030320-23, part three of the

THIS MODERN WORLD

by TOM TOMORROW

2007
AN INCOMPLETE, SUBJECTIVE, AND ALTOGETHER INADEQUATE YEAR IN REVIEW
PART THE FIRST

JAN. 30: TOURING A CATERPILLAR PLANT, BUSH "JOKINGLY" TRIES TO RUN OVER REPORTERS WITH LARGE TRACTOR.
RUN--OR I'LL SQUASH YOU LIKE THE BUGS YOU ARE!
A HEARTY LAUGH IS ENJOYED BY ALL.

FEB. 18: WASHINGTON POST EXPOSES SHODDY CONDITIONS FOR VETS AT WALTER REED. CONSERVATIVES DRAW ONLY LOGICAL CONCLUSION.
GOVERNMENT RUN HEALTH CARE DOESN'T WORK!
--AND WHO COULD HAVE EVER SEEN THAT ONE COMING?

MARCH 9: AFTER YEARS OF ASSURANCES THAT THE PATRIOT ACT WOULD NEVER, EVER BE ABUSED, WE LEARN THAT THE FBI HAS BEEN ABUSING THE PATRIOT ACT.

APRIL 11: OOPS! THOUSANDS OF SUBPOENAED WHITE HOUSE AND R.N.C. EMAILS HAVE BEEN "INADVERTENTLY" DELETED!
THESE COMPUTER MACHINES ARE JUST SO DARNED COMPLICATED!

APRIL 19: ALBERTO GONZALES TESTIFIES THAT HE HAS A REALLY BAD MEMORY!
SORRY--WHAT DID YOU SAY MY NAME WAS?

APRIL 26: RUDY GIULIANI WARNS THAT AMERICA WILL BE AT RISK FOR A "NEW 9-11" IF DEMOCRATS WIN THE WHITE HOUSE.
VOTE FOR ME--OR YOU'RE ALL GOING TO DIE!

APRIL 29: MITT ROMNEY SAYS HIS FAVORITE NOVEL IS "BATTLEFIELD EARTH."
A MAN-ANIMAL GAINING LEVERAGE OVER A PSYCHLO?
HAH! THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN!

MAY 21: DEMOCRATS CAVE ON WAR FUNDING, BUT VOW TO BE VERY, VERY SURLY AROUND THE PRESIDENT.
WHEN HE SAYS "HELLO," WE'LL JUST LOOK THE OTHER WAY! THAT'LL SHOW HIM!

JUNE 11: LARRY CRAIG IS ARRESTED FOR SOLICITING SEX IN AN AIRPORT BATHROOM; TRIES TO KEEP INCIDENT QUIET.
PEOPLE MIGHT GET THE WRONG IDEA!
WE WIDE-STANCERS ARE OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD!
SUCCEEDS FOR 13 WEEKS; AFTER THAT, NOT SO MUCH.

JUNE 21: BILL O'REILLY WARNS OF PINK-PISTOL-PACKING LESBIAN GANGS ROVING AMERICA'S CITIES, FORCIBLY INDOCTRINATING CHILDREN INTO THE HOMOSEXUAL LIFESTYLE!
BE AFRAID! BE VERY AFRAID!

JULY 23: IT'S DEMOCRACY IN ACTION, AS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES ARE QUESTIONED BY AN ANIMATED SNOWMAN!
WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, COULD ANY OF YOU FEEL ANY MORE DEBASED THAN YOU DO AT THIS VERY MOMENT?
MORE NEXT WEEK!

neighborhood-plan amendment process) is also not being enforced. Our ordinance says if a property owner has financial interest in a project to change their neighborhood, that homeowner "can not participate in any decision concerning the project, including the decision of the Planning Team to submit an application for a

plan amendment, nor the decision to support or not support the project."

Some homeowners have a financial conflict of interest because they purchased abandoned property, on speculation, with nothing to lose and lots to gain. They have led the discussions
continued on p.12

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concerning the plan amendment at neighborhood meetings and have been the only speakers for the plan amendment at Planning Commission meetings. They have participated in discussions to submit an application for a plan amendment and then submitted the application for the plan amendment to the city. All actions are a clear conflict of interest!

Why has the city of Austin decided to ignore this ordinance? It is clearly written, and the wording seems directly from Robert's Rules of Order.

In the past, one used to think, "We'll have to take the city to court to enforce city laws." Now, we can only hope to postpone everything until after the next City Council elections. Then, the voice of the neighborhoods will be heard. Peasants, it's time for the pitchforks.

Sincerely,
David Haun

Wells, You Are Our Pepto

Dear Wells Dunbar,

Thanks for another year of your pithy and deservedly biting council analysis ["Beside the Point"] and for your wit; our Pepto to the Hall-induced nausea.

Debbie Russell

Inspired by Stephen Moser

Dear Stephen Moser,

You have been an inspiration to me since I was a freshman design student. I had not seen nor met you yet, but the thought of eventually being able to excited me. I recently bumped into you the other night at an Xmas party with my friend Claire Fatheree ... (we knew you were a fashion god from the moment you walked in).

I am so inspired by your accomplishments and well-known reputation. I am obsessed with your column ["After a Fashion"] and love admiring your collections. Hope to see you again soon! You are *amazing*!

Carol Chavana



The Framers' Intent

Dear Editor,

I read the final installment of "Page Two" [Dec. 21] on the Constitution, and while I agree with much of it, I disagree that voting one's conscience is wasting a vote. Voter dissatisfaction has little to do with unhappiness over debate and compromise, but a lack of it.

Laws passed by dominant political parties secure positions on ballots by exempting their candidates from the petitioning. Using the polling mechanism, primaries give early recognition through news coverage and advertising media. Name recognition equals an election advantage. Media coverage of primaries puts party candidates before the public while independents chase signatures. News media deliberates which candidate loses votes because of the "spoilers." "Page Two" provided insight into constitutional concepts but reinforced the view that independents disrupt elections.

With 52% of the popular vote and winner-take-all division of Electoral College votes in 48 states, Al Gore was cost the election by D.C., not Nader. The Constitution sets votes in each state equal to the representatives and senators, leaving details to the states. Maine and Nebraska divide votes by congressional districts, with the Senate votes being statewide. If this was done nationally, Gore may have won despite Nader.

Presidential debates are run by a corporation headed by former organizers of the Democratic Party, not the League of Women Voters. By shutting out Nader and other candidates, this corporation limits access. When only candidates approved by a small group get public attention, you have an oligarchy. How does this encourage debate?

Equal treatment of participants, all candidates filing petitions, open participation in debates, equal media coverage, changing Electoral College voting, real debate of issues: These could open the process and reflect the constitutional intent you described. Don't hold your breath.

Two parties control public debate. Compromise is unnecessary: One party lacks votes to pass legislation but can prevent veto overrides. If 20% of Congress comprised independents, this would change. With only two viewpoints, debate and compromise encouraged by the Constitution atrophy. Open the process to more candidates, and meaningful discourse results.

Consider the preamble's phrase "promote the general welfare." The two-party system focuses on welfare of the party, not the nation. Those challenging the dominant parties and those voting for them deserve encouragement. Voting for candidates so the other guy doesn't win is not compromise; it is surrender. Voting your conscience is voting for what you believe. That was the framers' intent.

Fred Dare

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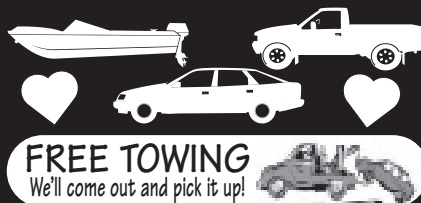
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26

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SLIDE

27

**WEDNESDAY
COLLECTION**

SLIDE

28

**THURSDAY
COLLECTION**

SLIDE

29

**FRIDAY
COLLECTION**

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Tuesday
JANUARY

1

NO COLLECTION
NEW YEAR'S DAY

SLIDE

2

**TUESDAY
COLLECTION**

SLIDE

3

**WEDNESDAY
COLLECTION**

SLIDE

4

**THURSDAY
COLLECTION**

SLIDE

5

**FRIDAY
COLLECTION**



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Shifting Winds

Is there a change in the Texas political weather?

BY MICHAEL KING

On the cusp of a new year, it seems a likely moment to wonder if the Texas political winds are indeed beginning to shift in a more progressive – or at least more rational – direction. That's the lesson being trumpeted by state Democrats in the wake of Dem lawyer Dan Barrett's capture of the District 97 special election run-off over Republican pediatrician Mark Shelton, in a Southwest Fort Worth district that had been heavily GOP for many years, until vacated by retiring incumbent Rep. Anna Mowery. The turnout was a measly 11%, but most observers had presumed that Shelton, who bested a handful of Republican rivals in the initial voting, would gather most of those opponents' votes to overcome Barrett's 32% plurality. Instead, GOP voters stayed home, Dems (especially union members) turned out, and thanks to House Speaker Tom Craddick's heavy-handed political muscle, the run-off became a referendum on Craddick's speakership. The result, a 52% to 48% victory for Barrett, was hardly an endorsement for Craddick or his meddling. State Democratic Party Chair Boyd Richie declared breathlessly, "The revolution begins in Fort Worth."

We shall see. Barrett will have to run again in November, with what will be a much bigger turnout, but even setting aside the Craddick question, it's encouraging to note that the Democrat ran a campaign that opposed school vouchers, supported mass transit, children's health insurance, and cleaning up North Texas air – none of these items high on either Craddick's or Mowery's priority list.

A few days earlier – very late on a Friday night – Craddick did win one vote that mattered, as Attorney General Greg Abbott crawled an opinion on the speaker controversy that will allow Craddick to endure at least until January 2009. Asked by House Republican insurgents to rule on Craddick's spring declaration of "absolute power" in rejecting any attempt by the House to unseat him, Abbott tap-danced through a lengthy and strained opinion on whether the speaker is an impeachable "state officer" – suggesting tenuously that he probably is – but finally declining to rule on the only question that mattered: whether the House members who elect the speaker have the right to unseat him. "The question asks this office to decide matters that are internal to the House," mused the AG, in deciding on discretion over valor. No fool he.

Hands-on Housecleaning

In truth, it's just as well that Abbott took a pass, as the Republican House members who

continued on p.16



ROMANNE JO MITCHELL

Local anti-war activists Daniel Llanes, Fran Hanlon, Carol Petrucci, and Alice Embree sang carols in front of the Capitol Friday, Dec. 21, to call attention to the Iraq Moratorium, a national effort to end the conflict in Iraq. Women in Black, CodePink, Austin Movement for a Democratic Society, and the Iraq Moratorium National Committee co-sponsored the protest. Supporters of the moratorium gather the third Friday of every month. For more info, check out www.iraqmoratorium.org.



QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"Even though the Court may not agree with the results of the City's interpretation of the ordinance, it is for the City Council, not this Court, to change the ordinance."

– Judge Orlinda Naranjo, ruling against Responsible Growth for Northcross in its lawsuit to stop the construction of a Wal-Mart Supercenter at the former Northcross Mall

NAKED CITY

▶ On Dec. 20, in an unexpected move, the city's Charter Revision Committee voted 4-2 to recommend to City Council that a referendum on **single-member districts** be placed on next spring's municipal ballot. The committee was tasked with bringing its recommendation to council by late January, but following the committee's review of an online survey that reflected majority support for a charter ballot on districting, members voted to make the recommendation and canceled their final two meetings. Committee Chair Gus Garcia, a former mayor of Austin, said that in addition to the survey, members considered that a charter change (affecting appointment of the city auditor) will already be on the 2008 ballot, and another such vote could not take place before 2010. "There's not been a dramatic shift [in support for districts], but I believe the politics have changed sufficiently to make such a change," Garcia told Naked City. He said that to draft the ballot, council would have to decide what form the districting would take (for example: six districts, two at-large seats, and a mayor) and that the committee would submit all the versions that have been proposed. "There's more information than you can shake a stick at," he said. Maps, history, and more information are available at www.ci.austin.tx.us/charter. – Michael King

▶ The **University of Texas System** is taking steps toward a longtime goal of opening a **medical school** in Austin by conducting a feasibility study. The *Austin Business Journal* reported last Friday that UT Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, at the behest of the UT System, is exploring the idea of expanding into Austin. This comes as welcome news to the Seton Family of Hospitals, which has long promoted Austin as a site for a new medical school.

Seton commissioned a study in April that found a medical school in Austin would relieve doctor shortages, not to mention bring \$360 million into the local economy. A new medical school isn't going to come cheap, however. According to Board of Regents Chairman H. Scott Caven Jr., Austin would have to rustle up hundreds of millions of dollars from donors if it wants a medical school. – Justin Ward

▶ In other education news, the **Austin Independent School District** wants parents of current and former students to let them know how they can improve

middle schools by filling out an online survey. The survey asks parents to share their perceptions of the academic offerings, student-teacher relationships, social environments, and extracurricular activities at middle schools. The outreach is part of the district's plan to improve middle schools, and a district review has

continued on p.17

HEADLINES

▶ **Responsible Growth for Northcross** lost its lawsuit against the city to stop construction of a **Wal-Mart Supercenter**, as Judge Orlinda Naranjo ruled that city ordinance doesn't require public hearings on the project. See p.18.

▶ A Travis Co. grand jury indicted former Convention Center Director **Robert Hodge** on 16 counts of "tampering with a government record" (i.e., customer surveys) but not on any counts related to financial crimes. See p.26.

▶ City plans for Downtown's **Seaholm/Green neighborhood** are rapidly shifting: The central library may now get its own site, and Green may be ripe for development in the next few months. See p.22.

▶ We're No. 1! While national **execution rates** continue to drop, **Texas** can boast another first: For the first time in the modern history of capital punishment – and leaping from an annual average of 37% – more than 60% of the year's executions occurred in the Lone Star State.

would unseat Craddick were basically asking the AG to do their Housecleaning, a matter best left to those who made the mess. Craddick obstreperously prevented that last spring, but come next January, the insurgents will have only themselves to blame if they can't muster the votes either to unseat Craddick or to rewrite their own rules to make explicit what anybody who's ever held a public meeting knows by default: If we elect the chair, we can throw him out whenever necessary. That's the real force of the speaker battle – Craddick (along with his cronies Terry Keel and Ron Wilson) got away with a coup not just against his colleagues but against any semblance of democratic authority under parliamentary rules of order.

In response to Abbott's ruling, Waco Rep. Jim Dunnam, the Democratic Caucus chair, thundered, "No person with a commonsense understanding of the fundamentals in our country, much less a trained lawyer, can condone Abbott's opinion that Craddick should have the absolute power of a Tito, Mussolini, or Stalin." While I can't quite see Poor Tom of Midland as the Second Coming of the Madman of Steel, it was in fact Craddick who declared that he has "absolute power" to determine who can make a motion of any kind in the House, effectively a declaration of war against his own membership. Some were and remain craven enough to submit to him, but one has to ask: If Craddick could have survived a vote on his rule, why wouldn't he allow one?

Put Up Your Dukes

Even while Craddick is recruiting candidates to run against GOP incumbents who have defied him – and such hopefuls could not have been encouraged by the fate of

Shelton, who put his eggs in the speaker's basket – Craddick has garnered a Democratic opponent, Midland City Council Member Bill Dingus, in District 82. Dingus will be very much a long shot, but it's nice to know that Craddick may at least feel a speed bump on the way to his provincial recoronation. More importantly, House incumbents who supported Craddick may now begin to feel a well-deserved shift in the wind.

The local example, of course, is District 46 Rep. Dawnna Dukes, a seventh-term incumbent who has just drawn a fledgling opponent in attorney Brian Thompson, who has loudly founded his early campaign on Dukes' support for Craddick's speakership. Thompson too will be a long shot, and if Craddick is his only issue, it won't be sufficient – but Dukes spokesman Colin Strother didn't help his boss much when he snorted that nobody in her district even knows who Craddick is. Note to Strother: It's generally considered bad form

to begin your campaign by insulting the intelligence of your constituents. Dukes has earned a strong challenge, and Thompson should at least be a reminder that there are more issues at stake in Texas than who gets the plum committee assignments.

Frankly, I don't much care about Craddick himself, but I do care that the state politics he represents – reactionary, mean-spirited, divisive, anti-community – should be steadily driven to the margins of public life so that the government of Texas might one day represent the whole of the people and not just our masters, employers, and economic overseers. That may be a quixotic ambition, but the journey could well begin with the simple recognition that we can't have a fair and equitable community without an honest and democratic Capitol. ■

Some House members were and remain craven enough to submit to Speaker Tom Craddick, but one has to ask: If Craddick could have survived a vote on his rule, why wouldn't he allow one?

BESIDE THE POINT Hold On to That Receipt

BY WELLS DUNBAR

Once the stockings are unstuffed and the wrapping paper's swept away, it's time to do what every greedy kid does: Take stock of your holiday haul.

Well, did you all get what you wanted?

The city got to unwrap one of its bigger gifts early, when the **Charter Revision Committee** announced on Dec. 20 – two meetings ahead of its scheduled January finale – that it had recommended the city put **single-member districts** to a May vote (see "Naked City"). Apparently swayed by an outpouring of online surveys in favor of geographic representation – if not the committee's sparsely attended meetings – it's now council's call on how to proceed. The next few weeks will be critical in assessing whether there's sufficient political will to see the vote through. Council Members **Sheryl Cole** and **Brewster McCracken** have both vocally decried the switch to single-member, the former from a purported fear of diminished African-American representation and the latter out of – well, we haven't quite worked that out yet.

But no matter the reason, that opposition can't deny Austin has outgrown its current form of government. Of the nation's Top 20 biggest cities, Austin's paltry six council seats clock in at the fewest. And while BTP knows the elaborate Kabuki theatre make-believe that Austin's still the sleepy li'l college town done good ("What's wrong with what we have?") is harder to shake than a glass of turned eggnog, the fact is people are clamoring for more direct representation from their elected leaders. Even if they find parts of it problematic, Cole, McCracken, and any other naysayers should do the right thing by voting to put it on the ballot – then make the case against it, instead of precluding the very possibility of debate. Otherwise,

they'll find themselves thrown out with the rest of the packaging.

The other gift-wrapped surprise – **Austin's next city manager** – will have to sit under the tree a little longer. Here's a quick recap of the search timeline: Jan. 3 and 4, council's scheduled to review all the prospective applicants assembled by national search firm Arcus and announce council members' selected semifinalists – likely including existing "internal" candidates **Laura Huffman**, **Rudy Garza**, and **Juan Garza** (see "The Insiders," Dec. 14). Interviews transpire Jan. 8 and 9, with the finalists being announced by the time of their final interviews, Jan. 16. The next day, at the regularly scheduled council meeting, Jan. 17, Austin's next city manager will be named.

We suppose scheduling the whirlwind interviews in the new year, while the city shakes off its collective hangover, is better than scheduling over the holiday hump, when the entire city's outta town. Neither are optimal. But the supposed time for public input came earlier this year, when council solicited public opinion on "the profile" of our next city manager.

Don't remember? We don't blame you – it was a few minutes in an August council meeting, when the sole substantial criticism of preserving the existing power structure arose (from **American Civil Liberties Union** Austin prez and BTP groupie **Debbie Russell**), and **Will Wynn** chided, "We're here to discuss the profile of the new city manager, not discuss the performance of the current one."

All we can say is that going into the city manager search is caveat emptor: Buyer beware – there are no returns or exchanges on this one.

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already outlined challenges, such as achievement gaps along ethnic and class lines and discipline inequities that result in African-American students being punished more. The district is establishing a task force that will review parent comments, compare district data to other districts in the state and the nation, and conduct site visits. The survey is the first step in this process and is available at www.austinsd.org. — Michael May

▶ Bill Kirchenbauer is a 54-year-old comedian best known for his role as coach Graham Lubbock on the megapopular Eighties sitcom *Growing Pains*. He is also a resident of the affluent Austin suburb the Village of the Hills and has blown his whistle on those pesky basketball hoops mucking up his streets; he wants the neighborhood **ban on hoops located in front of houses** (or visible from the community's private golf course) enforced. While it is a tad ironic Kirchenbauer played a coach on TV and is now campaigning against basketball hoops, the **Austin Toros** don't think it's a joking matter. The NBA Development League affiliate of the San Antonio Spurs, the Toros have invited Village of the Hills households with children to attend either the team's Dec. 26 or 27 home games for free. "The Toros support healthy kids, and we want to encourage kids to get out and play to offset some of the harmful results of childhood obesity," said Toros Chief Operating Officer Billy Widner. For more on the Toros, see www.austintoros.com. — Mark Fagan

▶ **HelioVolt Corp.**, a homegrown start-up manufacturer of next-generation thin-film solar products, announced Dec. 20 that it will build its first factory in Austin at the planned **Expo Business Park** near Austin-Bergstrom International Airport. The new solar films have been anticipated as a tipping point technology for solar, given their cheaper and much faster method of production — exactly what's needed to make solar competitive with fossil energy sources. HelioVolt's decision to stay in Austin is a huge boon to local clean-energy economic development efforts. HelioVolt constructs its films from copper indium gallium selenide, instead of silicon, in a process that resembles a printing press. The films are 100 times thinner than today's solar panels, and production is up to 100 times faster, according to a company statement. Most importantly, they can be integrated much more readily into buildings, covering both their sides and roofs. HelioVolt set local venture capital records, closing a recent round of private fundraising with more than \$100 million. They also joined the ranks of Google, Yahoo!, Skype, Netscape, and YouTube this year as a recipient of *Red Herring* magazine's 100 Global Award, recognizing standout tech up-and-comers. HelioVolt says its new factory should add more than 150 local jobs and will begin production by mid-2008. — Daniel Mottola

JANA BIRCHUM

The new year will bring good luck to Mala Suerte Drive, as City Council voted Dec. 13 to approve an ordinance changing the name of this Southwest Austin street to Buena Suerte, which means "good luck" in Spanish. Will sunny days now sweep the clouds away and Oscar the Grouch opt to vacate his trash can for a beautiful flower bed? Stay tuned.



▶ Austin can expect to see a big boost in the number of **green-building** projects being completed in coming months. That's because the big bubble of major **condominium projects**, almost all of them Downtown, is now moving through the city approval process. Downtown building requires a minimum of a one-star green building rating. Also, a large portion of Mueller, which is designated with green building standards in the city's master development agreement, also is coming online. That means any building built Downtown or at Mueller, and that includes Mueller's homes, will be at least 15% more energy-efficient than current city code. Program manager Richard Morgan, who is housed over at Austin Energy, calls this impending green-building bubble "the anaconda that swallowed the pig": a major payoff in energy efficiency that the city can expect to see put on the rolls in coming months. Ultimately, though, it will be council's commitment to ratchet up the city energy code that will yield the most dividends to the city. — Kimberly Reeves

BEYOND CITY LIMITS

▶ The **Texas Medical Board** faces accusations its members knowingly abused its complaint system to help insurers trying to avoid paying out on big medical bills. On Dec. 20, the **Association of American Physicians and Surgeons** filed suit against the board and its members in the U.S. District Court for the eastern district of Texas. The association alleges in the suit that insurance firms would make false anonymous allegations against doctors whose patients ran up long-term bills, leading to malpractice investigations against them and license suspensions. The suit alleges board members did not just know about it but were complicit and that board President Roberta M. Kalafut had her husband file anonymous complaints against rival physicians. The House Appropriations Regulatory Subcommittee held hearings on Oct. 23, during which similar claims were made by doctors from around the state. Rep. Corbin Van Arsdale, R-Tomball, said he had heard reports of doctors fearing retaliation from the board if they complained about it. — Richard Whittaker

▶ U.S. representative and presidential hopeful **Ron Paul** may be the Republican Libertarians love the most, but that hasn't stopped one running for his District 14 seat. **Eugene J. Flynn**, an immigration attorney whose platform would "allow those illegally in the U.S. to get right with the law," filed with the Libertarian Party of Texas on Dec. 20. (Paul's staff confirmed he will run again for his seat. Under Texas electoral law, he can run for both president and representative next November.) Explaining his platform, Flynn said in a statement: "I agree with Ron Paul about 80% of the time. The problem is the other 20% is the most important to me, that is, immigration." Flynn tried to run as a Libertarian against Paul in 2006, but the party voted not to contest the race. Libertarian Party of Texas Executive Director Wes Benedict admitted that he himself had donated more than \$800 to Paul's presidential campaign. "Nevertheless," he said, "I respect Mr. Flynn for standing up for his principles." — R.W.

▶ Christmas came a little early for the Albuquerque-based **Archaeological Conservancy**, the self-described "only national non-profit organization dedicated to acquiring and preserving the best of our nation's remaining archaeological sites." UT archeology professor **Michael Collins** donated a 33-acre archeological site in Bell County, purchased with his own personal savings, to the conservancy. The tract, known as the Gault site, contains important clues about the lives of the Clovis people, a tribe believed to be America's first inhabitants, Collins told the Associated Press. He launched an unsuccessful crusade to raise money to buy the site, but some questioned the value of the space, which has been picked over by amateur treasure hunters. New relics continue to be found, however, and Collins thought the site valuable enough to dip into his own pocket. He declined to say exactly how much he spent on the land. — J.W.

▶ A frazzled yet finalized **federal energy bill** is headed for President Bush. The legislation most notably increases mandated fuel economy by 40% (the first such boost in 32 years); it also outlaws the inefficient incandescent lightbulb by 2012, tightens efficiency standards for buildings and appliances, calls for energy-usage labels on many products, and requires drastic increases in domestic biofuel production, including noncorn cellulosic ethanol. But thanks to Senate GOP opponents and presidential veto threats, some of the bill's most vital original provisions, such as a 15% nationwide renewable-electricity standard, incentives for plug-in hybrid cars, and a measure to redirect \$13 billion in oil-industry tax breaks to key renewable-energy tax credits, had to be dropped from the legislation's final version. The move is seen as a win for the oil and coal industries and a debilitating blow to wind and solar projects nationwide. "I have already met twice with Speaker Pelosi and Global Warming Committee Chair Ed Markey to explore ways to undo the Senate's damage next year," said Austin Rep. Lloyd Doggett. In other energy news, the Senate has closed the so-called Enron loophole, as part of the pending farm bill, restoring federal government oversight to detect and prevent manipulation in unregulated electronic energy markets. — D.M.

▶ "**Storms with extreme amounts of rain or snowfall** are happening more often across most of America, consistent with the predicted impact of global warming," according to new report "When It Rains, It Pours," released recently by Environment Texas. The report analyzed daily precipitation records from 1948 through 2006 at more than 3,000 weather stations in 48 states. "Consequences of increasingly intense rainstorms may include flooding, crop damage, pollution of waterways with runoff, and erosion," read the report, which noted that during the 20th century, floods caused more property damage and loss of life than any other natural disaster in the United States. In Texas, heavy rainfalls are now 28% more frequent than they were 60 years ago, the report said. But more rainfall doesn't necessarily mean more available water, according to the report. Scientists expect extreme downpours to punctuate longer periods of relative dryness, increasing the risk of drought. Read the full report at www.environmenttexas.org. — D.M.

▶ The **Environmental Protection Agency** will award \$3 million in grants this year as part of its **Community Action for a Renewed Environment** program, designed to assist communities by providing information about the pollution risks they face, as well as the funding needed to address those risks. CARE also offers EPA technical assistance resources to find ways to reduce toxic exposures through collaborative action at the local level. A few examples of regional CARE programs include educational outreach to school children in Laredo, cooperation with auto dismantlers and gas-station owners in Bernalillo County, N.M., and the identification of environmental priorities in flood-damaged St. Bernard Parish, La. City, state, and tribal governments, plus nonprofit organizations and universities, can submit grant proposals until March 17. The EPA will conduct three informational webcasts: Jan. 18, Feb. 11, and Feb. 27. Register for a webcast session at www.cluin.org/studio/seminar.cfm. For more info, see www.epa.gov/care. — D.M.

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JUDGE RULES AGAINST RG4N IN WAL-MART LAWSUIT

Responsible Growth for Northcross has lost its lawsuit against the construction of a **Wal-Mart** on the former **Northcross Mall** property by Dallas-based **Lincoln Property Co.** RG4N sued the city on the grounds that city staff had improperly approved Lincoln's site plan for the Wal-Mart Supercenter without considering the project's impact on public safety, traffic, and flood drainage, as required by city ordinance. Part of RG4N's claims was that city staff should not have approved the Wal-Mart's garden center as an "accessory use"; rather, it should have been a "conditional use," which would require a zoning change and thus would have triggered public hearings. In her opinion, Judge **Orlinda Naranjo** of the 419th District Court noted that the city has historically approved site plans if garden centers are an accessory use and less than 10% of the total floor area. (She did not address any of RG4N's other claims.)

"After ascertaining the City's intent in enacting the ordinance as expressed in its plain language," Naranjo wrote, "the Court finds that the City's decision to approve Site Plan 2 is consistent with the clear language of the ordinance. The Court cannot rewrite the ordinance to apply to all garden centers whether an accessory use or not, or determine at what size an accessory use is unreasonable. Would it be 1,000 sq. ft., 5,000 sq. ft., 10,000 sq. ft. or 20,000 sq. ft.? Would it be 1%, 3%, or 5% of the total floor area of the use? Even though the Court may not agree with the results of the City's interpretation of the ordinance, it is for the City Council, not this Court, to change the ordinance."

In a statement, RG4N replied: "RG4N is disappointed with this verdict. But we are not done fighting. We are merely back where we were one year ago, when neighbors resoundingly said, 'NO' to this irresponsible development. And in the court of public opinion, Wal-Mart, Lincoln and the City of Austin have been losing since Day One."



"Unless we continue to act, we believe the City and developers will take this ruling as a green light to continue business as usual, pursuing any and all development without regard to the wishes of or effect on neighborhoods."

"Moreover, while Judge Naranjo outlined her reasoning for her ruling on the garden center issue, she gave no explanation for her ruling on most of our claims. Without such an explanation, we continue to believe that we conclusively established noncompliance with the law on our other claims."

"This is a victory for the integrity of the city's process," said attorney Casey Dobson, outside counsel for the city. "Let me also compliment RG4N and their fine counsel for a case well fought."

RG4N said it will hold a town hall meeting in Wozniak Hall at St. Louis King of France Catholic Church, 7601 Burnet Rd., at 7pm on Friday, Jan. 11.

- Lee Nichols



Carla Cheatham, executive director of the Religion and Labor Network of Austin, leads a prayer during a Dec. 3 candlelight vigil at the Cumberland Road Salvation Army as part of an effort to get local businessman Gregory Feste to pay former employees of his now out-of-business Cheesecake Kitchen.

Wage Vigilance

Has the Grinch relocated from Whoville? According to the **Religion and Labor Network of Austin**, which recently held a candlelight vigil at the Cumberland Road Salvation Army in an effort to get a local businessman to pay former employees of his now out-of-business restaurant, the anti-Christmas curmudgeon now lives here. The RALN – a branch of the **Equal Justice Center**, a self-described "non-profit organization that includes several projects supporting workplace justice for low and moderate-income working families" – says **Gregory Feste**, former owner of West Lake Hills' **Cheesecake Kitchen** (previously Ruggles Grill), which went out of business in early October, owes 13 workers about \$15,000 for labor performed between Sept. 11 and Oct. 4. The group also accuses Feste, who is outspoken about his Christian faith, of being a hypocrite.

"We are asking Mr. Feste to honor his faith and pay these workers from his personal resources," reads an RALN press release for the Dec. 3 vigil. "The workers wish to impress upon [him] the importance of remember[ing] how his actions impact individual workers, many of whom are single parents, and are not corporations with the resources to survive a businessman failing to pay his debts."

Feste, also the former CEO of the **Austin Wranglers** arena football team, could not be reached for comment.

"His contention is that he has no money," said **Carla Cheatham**, the RALN's executive director, who, along with dozens of others involved in the effort to claim the workers' wages, talked to Feste at his West Lake Hills-area home the

week before the Salvation Army vigil. "We even prayed with him there on his front porch," Cheatham said. "Our approach is not [that he's] bad or evil. [It's] how can we work together to resolve this peacefully so that everyone gets what they deserve."

Based on an Oct. 28 story by *Statesman* reporter **Robert Elder**, "Greg Feste's telling trails of fumbles," Feste, who has been involved in multiple failed business ventures, could be telling the truth. **Ruggles Restaurant Group**, which Feste established in Houston, to which the Cheesecake Kitchen

belonged, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in August.

Emily Timm, a community organizer with the **Workers Defense Project** – which is also a product of the Equal Justice Center and is working with the 13 laborers to help them claim their wages – said "it's our understanding that all of the employees of the restaurant are owed their last two weeks' pay." For example, 35-year-old **Jesus Martinez**, one of the former Cheesecake Kitchen employees, said he started

as a cook at the restaurant on Aug. 12 and that he is owed about \$1,300 in pay. The Workers Defense Project hasn't heard from Feste, said Timm, although it did recently receive a letter about the bankruptcy process from his attorney. On Dec. 21, some of the former employees filed a proof of claim in bankruptcy court to see if Ruggles Restaurant Group has any assets left, Timm said.

"If there are any assets in the liquidation, they would have a chance to receive the compensation that they're entitled to," she said. The Feste nonpayment case is one of several similar cases that RALN and WDP is pursuing. – Cheryl Smith

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Does Harry Potter Cause Sexual Violence? Only in Texas.

On Dec. 17, the **state comptroller** successfully fought off a request for a temporary injunction against the new “**titty tax**” – a \$5-per-customer surcharge on **sexually oriented businesses**. District 53 Judge **Scott Trevin** rejected the request from the **Texas Entertainment Association** and **Karpod Inc.**, management firm of Players bar in Amarillo, because the association could not prove immediate irreparable harm before Jan. 1, when the surcharge actually takes effect. In the three-hour hearing, however, lawyers for the comptroller introduced a radical new defense they may use when they face a request for a permanent injunction in the new year.

Throughout the passage of **House Bill 1751** and the subsequent debate about the surcharge it created, the author, Rep. **Ellen Cohen**, D-Houston, and her staff have insisted the bill is not an attempt to connect sexually oriented businesses with sexual violence. Instead, they argue it creates “an apples to apples comparison”: a business that mainly employs women putting cash into a sexual-abuse program fund that would benefit victims of crimes that primarily affect women.

That was then. At Tuesday’s hearing, the comptroller’s attorney produced University of Texas at Austin associate journalism professor **Robert Jensen** and trial attorney **Kevin Madison** as “expert witnesses” to justify the surcharge, supporting the state’s new claim that there is a connection between sexually oriented businesses and sexual violence against women.

At Tuesday’s hearing, the comptroller’s attorney produced UT-Austin associate journalism professor Robert Jensen and trial attorney Kevin Madison as “expert witnesses” to justify the surcharge, supporting the state’s new claim that there is a connection between sexually oriented businesses and sexual violence against women.

Jensen, who writes about the effects of pornography on gender relations, said there is a “clear link between pornography and sexual violence.” Calling porn a “training manual” for sexual activity and abuse, he said the findings of his research could be applied to all “sexually exploitative industries” – including adult cabaret. Madison, who has represented victims of sexual assault, was restricted by Trevin to solely discussing his experience as a police officer in Bastrop County, 25 years previously, working around strip clubs. (Unsurprisingly, there was no testimony concerning male performers or employees, nor performances for an all-female audience, although these contexts would also be covered by the law as written.)

Assistant Attorney General **Jim Todd** argued that it doesn’t matter what Cohen, author of the bill, had intended. Instead, this testimony concerned a previously unstated

secondary effect, which legislators *might* have considered when deciding to vote for the bill. There need be no legislative record of such possible connection, he argued, nor any proof to support the state’s presumption that it exists.

The plaintiffs’ lawyers responded that the surcharge is inherently unconstitutional. “Adult entertainment” is indeed covered by the First Amendment, but it is a less protected form of speech than “political” speech, meaning it can be regulated. Those regulations must be narrowly defined restrictions on time, place, or manner – for example, restrictive zoning. An industrywide surcharge violates that precedent, the plaintiffs argued, and must be defined as either a “fee” or a “tax.” Also, under Texas law, a fee on a particular industry must be directed to regulation of that industry, not to some other purpose; otherwise, the proposed surcharge would be an occupational tax, making it an unconstitutional tax on protected speech.

The plaintiffs’ lawyers also challenged the bill as overly broad. Throughout the hearing, the state referred to the 151 (or 168, depending on the speaker) topless and nude bars in Texas, traditionally called sexually oriented businesses, as the law’s only targets. When Texas Entertainment Association lawyers argued the tax could be levied on other venues, Todd responded, “You can’t invalidate

a law because someone can imagine a way that it can be abused.”

But as written, HB 1751 extends the definition of sexually oriented business to any venue that allows drinking and exhibits full or partial nudity, or simply exhibits performers in clothes insufficiently opaque around the breasts, buttocks, or genitals. In drafting the comptroller’s enforcement rules (not yet issued), **Bryant Lomax**, tax policy division manager, confirmed he is using a very broad interpretation and will take “the plain meaning of the words in the statute and [try] to apply them as reasonably as possible.”

Strictly speaking, that would mean that wet T-shirt contests, burlesques, and theatrical performances, or even fashion shows of trans-

parent, translucent, or thinly woven clothes, could be liable for the surcharge. The comptroller’s draft rules supposedly sorting all this out are to be published in the *Texas Register* on Jan. 4, followed by 30 days of public comment. So for more than a month after the surcharge takes effect, many businesses will have no way of knowing whether they are liable and should be collecting the surcharge.



In theory, the “sexually oriented business” surcharge was aimed at Texas topless clubs, but the comptroller’s office says it will tax all nude and seminude performances – like this local comedy troupe that used nudity for laughs, or experimental-theatre groups.

At the hearing, the state argued that sexually oriented businesses (as traditionally defined) are causally linked to sexual violence, but the comptroller’s rules are expected to use the new, expanded definition of sexually oriented business. So if the stage play *Equus* – starring *Harry Potter* star Daniel Radcliffe in a fully nude scene and opening on Broadway next year – tours in Texas, under the draft rules, any theatre that hosts the play might well have to collect the surcharge. The logic – in the eyes of the attorney general – would seem to be that the nudity in *Equus* is contributing to sexual violence.

Much more at risk, of course, would be smaller theatrical productions that happen to employ nudity – everything from experimental

contemporary work to comic burlesques – and most of which could not sustain the financial burden. Defenders of the surcharge, including Cohen, have said that by challenging the surcharge, the Texas Entertainment Association is blocking funding for essential and universally supported needs. The association’s lawyers agreed that funding the state’s sexual-abuse programs is a good cause. However, if that case had been made at the Capitol and the Legislature had duly funded the programs with general revenues, the cash would have been available in September, along with the rest of the state budget. Even if the surcharge survives the court challenges, collection will not begin until April of next year.

– Richard Whittaker

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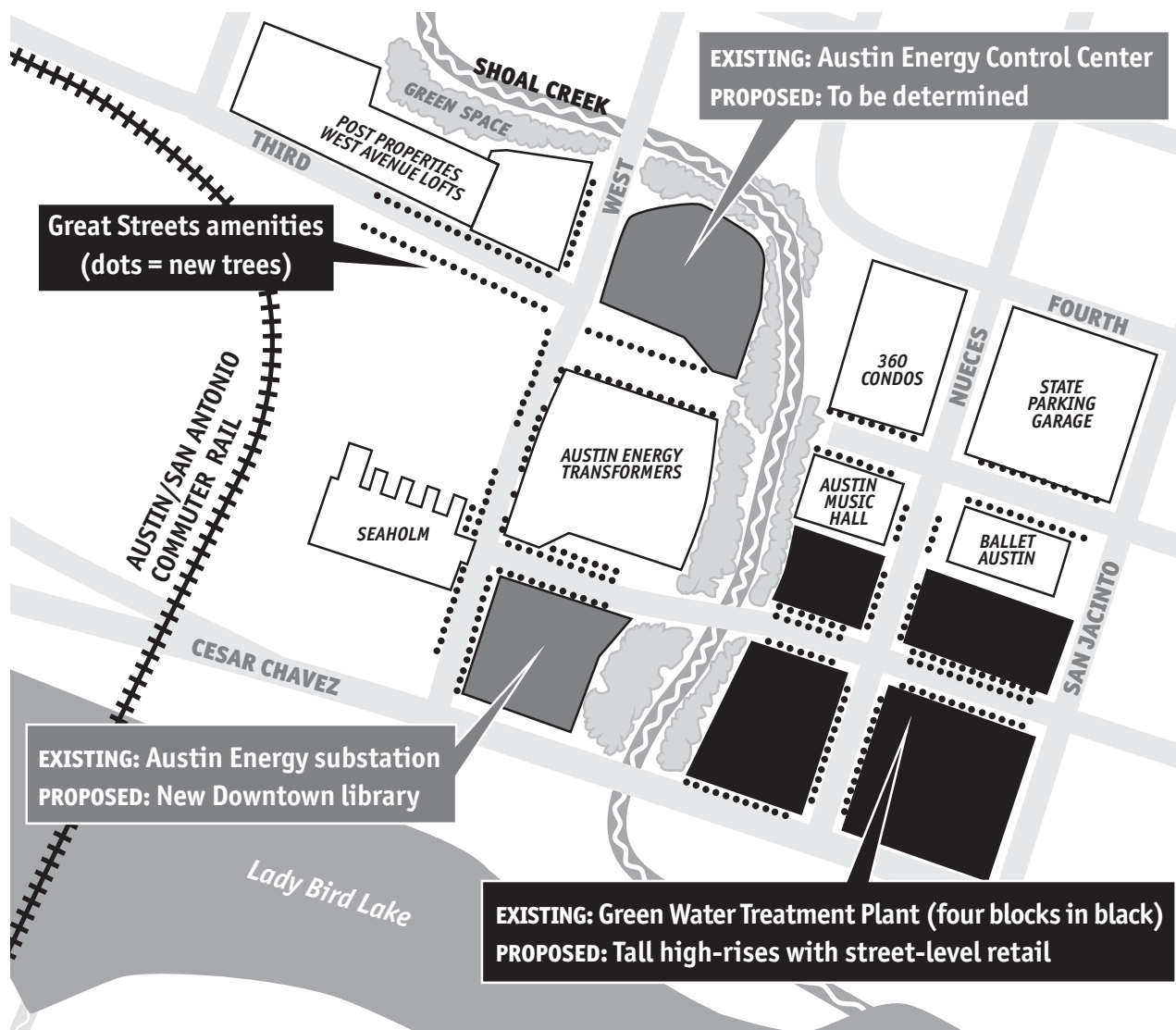
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Seaholm and Green District: Changes Afoot



In the most current plans for this area, Austin's new central library would be a stand-alone building facing Cesar Chavez, between the Seaholm Power Plant and the Green Water Treatment Plant.

So many parcels, so many plans! For the new **central library**, the site now proposed and favored by library advocates and the city is the current site of the **Seaholm substation**, an Austin Energy facility that fronts on Cesar Chavez, between West Avenue and Shoal Creek. Library advocates are excited about the location, where a stand-alone destination library (envisioned as world-class architecture) would overlook Lady Bird Lake. That signature structure would be flanked to the west by the redeveloped **Seaholm Power Plant** site and to the east by a four-block, high-rise redevelopment on the **Green Water Treatment Plant** site. Shifting the library from the Green site proper, said Council Member **Brewster McCracken**, will accelerate the project's schedule – with a design competition now slated for 2008. "They're a huge winner on this," he said of the library, which also gains parking and site preparation in the deal.

Open space near the library – a public plaza, pocket park, and/or enhanced Shoal Creek Greenbelt – is said to be a priority. A new Shoal Creek bridge could extend the **Second Street** corridor, providing an east-west connection between the library (and Seaholm) and the Green site (and central Downtown). The tall Austin Energy transformers north of the

proposed new library site would remain. Immediately north of those tracts, a third Austin Energy parcel hugged by Shoal Creek (currently the site of a control center) also would be redeveloped – perhaps concurrently but by a separate developer. Discussions among City Council members, city staff, and in the community are continuing.

In late January or early February, a request for proposals will be issued for the Green WTP site, said Assistant City Manager **Laura Huffman**, and teams will submit detailed redevelopment visions (subject to Waterfront Overlay and Capital View Corridor restrictions). Urban designers will be invited to present a "best practices" vision for the site.

The request for proposals also will reflect the phase one recommendations of the **Downtown Austin Plan**, to be publicly presented by ROMA

Design Group at a joint commissions meeting on Jan. 9. Much has occurred with Block 21, said Huffman and McCracken. Austinites will have ample opportunity to review the proposing teams' alternate proposals, drawings, and 3-D models. The public can help select the redevelopment vision that they believe best represents Austin values. In a perfect world, of course.

– Katherine Gregor

"They're a huge winner on this," said Brewster McCracken of the library, which also gains parking and site preparation in the deal.

@CHRONIC

ALAN SAGER STEPS DOWN AS TRAVIS GOP CHAIRMAN

After eight years, **Alan Sager** announced this week that he is stepping down as chairman of the **Travis County Republican Party**. No doubt the balding Supercuts tycoon is ready to kick back after his phenomenal success during that tenure – watching the county's House delegation go from half-GOP/half-Dem to completely Dem over the past few election cycles, despite the fact that three of the six districts were reshaped in 2000 specifically to elect Republicans. Congrats on a well-deserved retirement, Alan!

– Lee Nichols

HAPPENINGS

For more events, see *Community Listings*, p.60.

SATURDAY 29

ECOLOGICAL LITERACY WORKDAY Donate time for trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and other projects, and attend a local-ecology informational session. 9am-1pm. Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 972-1960. www.hornsbybend.org.

SUNDAY 30

LAST SUNDAY This month's event, hosted by Sean Tate, focuses on poverty in America and features Sarah Michel (Caritas of Austin), along with co-founders Eliza Gilkyson (who will perform), the Rev. Jim Rigby, and Robert Jensen. 6:30-8:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress, 471-1990. \$8 suggested donation. www.thirdcoastactivist.org/lastsunday.html.

CHRISTMAS TREE RECYCLING Drop off trees (minus the stand and ornaments) at Zilker Park (follow the signs to the polo fields) to be ground into mulch, which is given away in January. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm for details. (Pay-as-You-Throw customers can place trees curbside on yard trimming/recycling pickup days.) Sun., Dec. 30; Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6; 10am-4pm.

MONDAY 31

WHO DESERVES A MADI? Nominate Austin African-Americans who advocate for the community in any area. Deadline: Dec. 31. www.austinmadis.com.

TUESDAY 01

VALLEY LAND FUND WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST This annual competition rewards Texas' private landowners for good behavior by pairing them with photographers who will capture the natural beauty of their wildlife-friendly properties. Participants are eligible to win \$100,000 in prizes. See www.valleylandfund.com for details. Registration: Jan. 1-Feb. 29.

ONGOING

CHARTER REVISION SURVEY The city of Austin Charter Revision Committee seeks input regarding single-member districts. Go to www.cityofaustin.org/charter. Deadline: Jan. 23.

CITY OF AUSTIN SEEKS INPUT ON WEBSITE DESIGN With its sights set on "a new era of open government," the city of Austin is redesigning all of its websites and needs help. Take the Web usage survey at www.austingo.org. Deadline: Friday, Jan. 4.

DOG FENCE FUND provides vouchers to Austin families who can't afford to comply with the new ordinance prohibiting dog-chaining and needs donations. Send checks to: *Austin Community Foundation*, PO Box 5159, Austin, 78763. Chain Free Austin also needs new and gently used dog houses; call 923-8881 for details. www.chainfreeaustin.org.

MLK DAY OF SERVICE: CALL FOR VOLUNTEER PROJECTS Pitch in on this annual East Austin volunteer day by suggesting a project or joining someone else's. The event is Sat., Jan. 19, 9am-3pm. 225-0360. rene.carlin@unitedwaycapitalarea.org. www.handsoncentraltexas.org.

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS' ACADEMY is recruiting the next batch of students for the 13-week class kicking off Feb. 12. Students will get a behind-the-scenes look at the Travis Co. Sheriff's Office. Call or e-mail for details. Tuesdays, 6:45-10pm. 854-4989. vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us.



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Jerry Patterson

RICHARD WHITTAKER

The Christmas Mountains Patterson speaks up

Land Commissioner **Jerry Patterson** isn't trying to be grinchy about the **Christmas Mountains**. The proposal by the **General Land Office** to sell off 9,269 acres of West Texas has resulted in a lot of mudslinging at the commissioner. Original donor the **Conservation Fund** has threatened to never give land to Texas again. *Time* magazine even accused Patterson of selling off a chunk of **Big Bend National Park**. "I didn't know I had the authority to do that," he replied.

The **School Land Board** postponed the sale until early February, to allow the **National Park Service** to bid to add it to Big Bend National Park. Patterson said this gave people time to dispel some myths about the land and the original donation. "The objective in 1991 was not to turn this into a park, but just, if we don't do something, it's going to be subdivided," he said. While accepting that his opponents had valid opposing viewpoints, he said, part of the criticism comes because he is doing his job. "I'm the Realtor for the state of Texas," he said. While he can take on land of scientific, conservation, or educational value, it has to fit in with plans for keeping the **Texas Permanent School Fund** buoyant. "My original plan was to sell it and give the proceeds to the Conservation Fund, but I discovered I can't do that," Patterson said.

On Dec. 6, Sen. **John Whitmire**, D-Houston, appeared to give Patterson an out by suggesting he

leave the matter to the next Legislature to solve, including extending public access. "There's really good news there," Patterson said. "At least he recognizes there's no access."

Out of the 19-mile perimeter, only one mile adjoins Big Bend; the rest is surrounded by private land. This, Patterson argued, would make access difficult enough, but the topography of the area makes it near impossible. There is no road access from Big Bend, and if there were, visitors would almost immediately be faced by the sheer cliff of Christmas Mountain itself. While the ridge provides views of the park, from that side it is reachable only by experienced climbers. Patterson said locals were concerned that potential visitors would trespass along the privately owned road across **Terlingua Ranch Estates** to the east.

So far, two private bids have been received, both of which propose restoring the land for wildlife, while eventually allowing limited hunting. Both have agreed to build connecting trails for permanent public access from the park. Patterson said he feels this approach, rather than overstretching the parks budget more, is the best for the public and the land.

"I got this letter from this guy in New York saying, 'Aren't you concerned about your legacy?'" Patterson said. "I'd be suspect of any politician that runs around talking about his legacy."

— Richard Whittaker

SHOULD AUSTIN SACK PLASTIC BAGS?

Trying to get out of a store these days without a plastic bag is like trying to leave Grandma's house as a kid without getting a kiss. It's nearly impossible, and you often receive more than one without giving your consent. But lots of locals are working to change that, motivated by the blight plastic bags cause as litter, their tendency to cause floods by clogging sewers and to scourge wildlife, not to mention their petroleum composition and the fact that they take a millennium to decompose. First came the local **Bag the Bags Coalition** push for a City Council-enacted ban on plastic bags at large grocery stores and pharmacies. Then last week, Austin-based **Whole Foods Market** made headlines by announcing the elimination of plastic bags at its two metro stores as part of a new educational outreach campaign — led by local nonprofit **Keep Austin Beautiful** in association with the city's **Solid Waste Services Department** and the **Texas Retailers Association** — intended to popularize reusable bags and raise awareness about plastic-bag recycling.

For the time being, an Austin plastic-bag ban seems to be off the table. Solid Waste Services staffer **Melissa Martinez** said the aforementioned stakeholder groups have agreed to compile baseline data detailing how many bags are used and recycled locally. With data in hand, they'll give the public outreach campaign one year and then evaluate its results. City Council Member **Lee Leffingwell**, who co-sponsored an April resolution calling for ways to limit plastic bags used locally, said he'd like to see a 50% reduction in plastic-bag use or "significant and measurable progress."

Nationwide, plastic-bag recycling rates are estimated to be as low as 0.6%, with as many as 100 billion bags ending up in landfills each year. Making the bags consumes about 430 million barrels of oil annually, and littered bags are blamed for the death of more than a million birds and 100,000 mammals and turtles each year. Based on estimates by the city of San Francisco — which officially banned plastic bags last month — each bag represents a 17-cent local expense for cleanup, disposal, and lost recycling revenue.

Leffingwell commended Whole Foods' announcement, saying, "We don't always need a new ordinance or a new bureau-

cracy to achieve a critical environmental goal." He said their decision should "encourage all merchants in Austin to take dramatic steps to reduce plastic-bag use." As part of Whole Foods' effort, the company will double a 5-cent rebate already given to customers who bring their own bags and allow patrons to donate that sum (which they'll match) to Keep Austin Beautiful. Whole Foods now also offers 99-cent reusable "better bags" made from 80% post-consumer recycled bottles and brown paper sacks made from 100% recycled content.

Rick Cofer heads up the Bag the Bags Coalition, the main advocates of a local plastic-bag ban. He stressed the importance of measurable standards for reducing bag use and said, "It's my expectation that we probably won't see the type of results most people desire with a voluntary program," at which point a ban will be more of an option.

"Bans never make sense," said **Donna Dempsey**, managing director of the **Progressive Bag Alliance**, which represents bag manufacturers. The alternative they force — the use of more paper bags, which she says require more energy and water to produce — outweighs a ban's eco-benefits. She said the alliance supports the mandatory recycling efforts proposed in New York City, where stores more than 5,000 square feet in size must offer plastic-bag recycling, in addition to training workers not to use excessive bags, ensuring reusable bags are displayed at checkouts, and raising awareness about recycling at stores.

According to a September study for the **Capital Area Council of Governments**, most plastic bags recycled in Texas are actually down-cycled — combined with sawdust and transformed into **Trex**, a decking product. The report also recommended a local recycling ordinance similar to New York's and said cities should consider including plastic bags in curbside and drop-off recycling programs. The city of Austin doesn't recycle plastic bags.

Keep Austin Beautiful Executive Director **Brian Block** said, "One of the goals of our program is to create a cultural shift in Austin toward much more widespread use of reusable bags." As for recycling, Leffingwell said, "We're putting the ball in the retailer's court." You can drop off stockpiles of

DANIEL MOTTOLA



Whole Foods customers Chris and Kate Schmidt stand outside holding their new 80%-post-consumer-recycled better bag reusable grocery sack. Whole Foods gave away 1,000 reusable better bags to help kick off a new citywide campaign to reduce plastic-bag use.

plastic grocery and newspaper bags, as well as dry-cleaning bags and shrink wrap, in receptacles in front of local Whole Foods, HEB, Wal-Mart, and Randalls stores. For more info, see www.bagthebags.com, www.keepaustinbeautiful.org, and/or www.progressivebagalliance.com.

— Daniel Mottola

WTP 4: Home for the Holidays

Believe it or not, the road to decades-delayed **Water Treatment Plant No. 4** may be coming to an agreeable end.

At its Dec. 13 meeting, following a lengthy executive session, City Council voted to use bond dollars originally appropriated for the plant in 1984 to buy a parcel of land in western Travis County. The tract – aka Site 34 – is approximately 95 acres of land at the southwest corner of **RM 620 and Bullock Hollow**, Assistant City Manager **Rudy Garza** said in a presentation prior to the vote.

Site 34 was found following council's August decision to delay construction one year while the city reassessed its options one last time. In 1984, the city proposed WTP 4 on land it owns at Bull Creek, but over the years, as concerns mounted about building at the creek's headwaters, the area surrounding it turned into the **Balcones Canyonlands Preserve**. The city moved to relocate WTP 4 to nearby lands that didn't pose as grave an environmental impact yet were within the preserve – the approval of which preserve co-manager Travis Co. ultimately denied. In January, council announced its intention to return to Bull Creek, before the August moratorium. (For a review of the history, see "To the Lighthouse," Feb. 23.)

The August resolution compelled a "full review and re-examination of site selection cri-

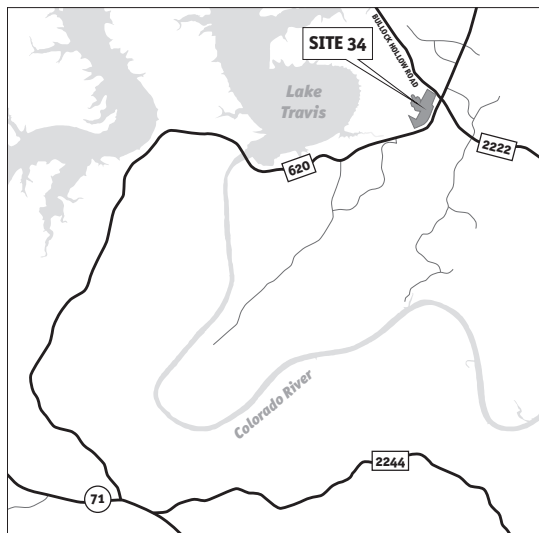
teria," plus "examination of new potential sites." Garza said that after weighing the environmental, engineering, and financial criteria, staff found some 83 potential sites – an astonishing rebuttal to previous assertions that the Bull Creek and preserve tracts were the sole options. After further vetting which sites "most appropriately met the council's direction and also met our system needs," the city found

Site 34 and also another viable tract. Authorizing the city manager to purchase Site 34, council also authorized continued backup negotiations on this unnamed secondary site.

The suddenness of the closed-door discussion and same-day purchase led to speculation council was offered a limited period for purchase; the actual cost remains to

be determined. Most confounding may be the question of how WTP 4 – long described by city staff as fit for only two locations – could then be found to have 83 new potential sites, including two exceptional ones. Council Member **Lee Leffingwell's** Water Conservation Task Force is credited with delaying the project long enough for the city to look one more time, with "new site selection criteria." But as WTP 4's unhappy history looks to draw to a close – with council campaigns looming – the city's reasoning sounds like convenient cover to finally fix a lingering problem.

— Wells Dunbar



REPORT: TEEN BIRTHRATE ROSE IN 2006

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics, the U.S. **teen birthrate** actually rose in 2006, the first such rise since 1991. The CDC reports that between 2005 and 2006, the birthrate for teens ages 15-19 rose 3%, to 41.9 births per 1,000 adolescent females – ending a 14-year downward trend where the birthrate fell 34% from the all-time high of 61.8 births per 1,000 in 1991. "It's way too early to know if this is the start of a new trend," **Stephanie Ventura**, head of the CDC's Reproductive Statistics Branch, said in a press release. "But given the long-term progress we've witnessed, this change is notable." And, Ventura noted, with just one year of data, it is "really too soon" to be able to explain the cause of the increase – it'll take some time to "piece together what the factors might be," she said.

The report is troubling to local **Planned Parenthood** officials who argue the best way to ensure the uptick is an aberration and not a trend lies in solid reproductive-health education – which they say has been crippled by a decade of spending on abstinence-only education programs. More than \$1 billion has been spent for abstinence-only education since

1997, even though studies have shown the programs have minimal, if any, effect on lowering the rates of teen pregnancies or sexually transmitted diseases. The rise in teen births "shows that the current agenda of requiring dangerous, ineffective abstinence-only programs isn't working," **Ken Lambrecht**, executive director of Planned Parenthood of the Texas Capital Region, said in a press release. "We need education programs in our schools that will keep teens healthy – by including information about abstinence as well as contraception, healthy communication, responsible decision-making, and prevention of sexually transmitted infections."

Also of note, the CDC's new report reveals the total number of U.S. births increased by 3% in 2006, with slightly less than 4.3 million babies born. Additionally, the CDC notes the increase in birthrates for all women aged 15-44 means the "total fertility rate" – an estimate of the average number of births that women have over their lifetimes – increased 2%, yielding the highest birthrate recorded since 1971; it's the first time since then that the birthrate was above the "replacement" mark – the "level at which a given generation can replace itself."

— Jordan Smith

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Canyon Creek Rebels Target MUD Lawsuit

There may be a polite rebellion brewing in **Canyon Creek**. As we reported a few weeks ago ("Point Austin: MUD in Your Eye," Nov. 9), the municipal utility district underlying the Northwest Austin suburb of Canyon Creek (Northwest Austin Municipal Utility District No. 1) sued the U.S. Department of Justice this year to overturn Section 5 of the **Voting Rights Act**, which requires every electoral body in nine states with particularly discriminatory histories, including Texas, to "preclear" proposed changes in election procedures with the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ, in order to protect **minority voting rights**. Although the MUD's board – led by Republican activist **Don Zimmerman** and currently promoting the local **Ron Paul presidential** campaign – admits that complying with the law has not been burdensome, board members consider the preclearance requirement unfair. Supported by right-wing foundations, the MUD sued in federal district court in D.C. to have Section 5 declared unconstitutional; a decision is pending.

At the MUD's Nov. 18 meeting – a lively affair, dealing with issues ranging from replanting the soccer field to fighting **feral hogs** to preventing teenage vandalism in Trailhead Park – several of the dozen residents in attendance requested that the board consider withdrawing from the suit, or at least not pursuing an appeal should the court rule against the MUD. While none of the residents directly disputed the board's insistence that Section 5 is "inequitable" – because "it assumes that we're guilty" of potential voting vio-

lations, said one board member – several called it an "ideological" lawsuit that is "not germane" to the practical business of running the MUD, which exists to repay infrastructure bonds and manage park facilities. One resident even offered to pay the estimated \$1,200 that administering compliance with the Voting Rights Act has cost the MUD over the years, if that's what it would take to get the board to drop the suit. "Canyon Creek is incurring a big black eye from a PR standpoint," said the resident.

But board members resisted the suggestion that they withdraw the suit, unless they can confirm that a majority of residents concur. "This turnout is about 10 times what you get at most meetings," pointed out one audience member. Among the observers was MUD pro bono attorney **Gregory Coleman**, the former Texas solicitor general (now with Yetter & Warden), who said it could be six months to a year before the D.C. court makes a decision. He also said it's extremely unlikely that the MUD would be liable for any penalties in the event of a loss, but if there were any, his law firm "might pay it."

Residents said they would begin a neighborhood petition campaign against the suit, and departing board Vice President George Frederickson, chairing the meeting, said he would consider a substantial petition "a significant data point" against the suit. Zimmerman, resplendent in a red Santa hat and a Ron Paul polo shirt, did not speak – having informed the group he was suffering from laryngitis.

– Michael King

HODGE INDICTED FOR ALTERING CONVENTION CENTER SURVEYS

On Friday, Dec. 21, following months of speculation, a Travis Co. grand jury indicted former **Austin Convention Center** Director **Robert Hodge** on 16 counts of tampering with a government record. Hodge was dismissed by City Manager **Toby Futrell** in April after he acknowledged to her that he had changed the results on an unspecified number of Convention Center "customer surveys" and amid allegations of financial improprieties in spending from Convention Center funds. In the end, prosecutors brought an indictment only on the document tampering allegation, under which Hodge is accused of altering the results on 16 customer-service surveys (out of about 150) during a 10-month period between 2005 and 2007. If convicted, Hodge could be sentenced to as long as two years' imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

The survey scores were used in part to determine department employee bonuses ("pay for performance"), including Hodge's own, but at a press conference Friday afternoon, Futrell said that a city review had concluded the changes Hodge had made would not have affected the bonus outcomes. "We couldn't find an occasion where changing those [surveys] would have changed the pay for performance," Futrell said. She was reluctant to speculate why Hodge might have altered the surveys. "I think you're going to have to ask him those questions," she told reporters. After repeated questions, Futrell emphasized that Hodge himself had been the one to tell her that he had altered the surveys, and she said, "I think he did it out of pride – in his department and his employees, and he just believed that some of the surveys were unfair." But, she said, it was not for Hodge to decide which convention visitors' answers were fair or unfair, concluding, "Fair is where you go to buy cotton candy."

Futrell fired Hodge and cooperated with the district attorney's investigation, pursuing allegations that Hodge had misappropriated funds for various Convention Center functions. In its own review, the city had concluded that all of the expenses approved by Hodge had indeed been legitimate, although "sometimes those expenses were funded from the wrong accounts," Futrell said. She said the lack of indictments on any other charges appeared to confirm the city's judgment that no financial criminal wrongdoing had occurred. She added that one result of Hodge's downfall is that the city has reviewed all aspects of the Convention Center's operations and financial procedures and has instituted new internal controls to prevent additional problems.

A new Convention Center director, Mark Tester, formerly of Chicago's McCormick Place, has been hired to take the director's position in January.

– M.K.

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THE HIGHTOWER REPORT

BY JIM HIGHTOWER

COMMANDER BUSH WINS ONE

At last, George W. can claim a breakthrough in his six-year war in Afghanistan. Things have not been going well there. Bush has spent \$127 billion and lost 469 American lives in this war, but Osama bin Laden is still loose, Bush's hand-picked Afghan president is so weak he can barely venture outside his capital city, and the provincial Taliban leaders our troops once drove out of power are now back.

Still, the Bushites have made strides in one area: agriculture. Afghanistan is a very poor country, so to make ends meet, farmers there have had to rely on an illegal crop: opium poppies. Indeed, Afghan farmers account for 93% of the world's opium production. This is not good, and it's something Bush & Company have been trying to change. Now a United Nations survey reports some significant progress: A northern Afghan province has been officially declared poppy-free this year! The U.N. report hails the province as a model, "where leadership, incentives, and security have led farmers to turn their backs on opium."

That's terrific, but to what did these farmers turn? Watermelons, maybe, or sweet potatoes? No, there's no profitable market for these. Instead, the province is flourishing with 10-foot-tall cannabis plants – the source of the hashish and marijuana trade. In fact, more than half of Afghanistan's provinces now cultivate cannabis, producing a 40% increase in the crop this year alone.

Drug dealers from the Taliban-controlled southern provinces buy the farmers' illegal abundance and take it to market in neighboring Pakistan, another supposed U.S. ally. From there it is sold in the international market – with a portion of the profits going to al Qaeda and other forces fighting our troops.

Still, this is what counts as success in the wacky world of George W.'s absurdist war policies.

GIFTS FOR A HAPPIER NEW YEAR

Wait till you hear about the gifts I gave to some of America's power elites for Christmas.

To each of our Congress critters, I sent my fondest wish that from now on they receive the exact same income, health care, and pensions that we average citizens get. If they receive only the American average, it might make them a bit more humble – and less willing to ignore the needs of regular folks.

For America's CEOs, my gift is a beautifully boxed, brand-new set of corporate ethics. It's called the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Going to pollute someone's neighborhood? Then you have to live there, too. Going to slash wages and benefits? Then slash yours, as well. Going to move your manufacturing to sweatshops in China? Then put your office right inside the worst sweatshop. Executive life won't be as luxurious, but CEOs would enjoy a new purity of spirit.

For George W. and his cohort Buckshot Cheney, I sent some tonics they can take to help them come clean when congressional investigators and grand juries get into their White House files. Confession, after all, can be good for the soul.

For Democratic leaders in Congress and the Democratic presidential aspirants, I sent jumbo glue guns so they can stiffen their spines. With regular injections, the party might finally stand up to Bush's imperial presidency and to corporate kleptocracy in Washington.

I didn't forget Republican presidential candidates, either. For Mitt, Rudy, Fred, Huck, and the boys, I sent memberships in the Reality-of-the-Month Club, which will deliver a new bottle of real-world experience each month. By either drinking these elixirs or rubbing them into their scalps, they can reduce their ideological fantasies and gradually ease their way toward sanity.

If the power elites accept these gifts, we'll all have a happier new year!

For more information on Jim Hightower's work – and to subscribe to his award-winning monthly newsletter, The Hightower Lowdown – visit www.jimhightower.com.

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| 13492 Research Blvd. | (183 & Anderson Mill Rd.) | 258-8181 |
| 600 William Cannon | | 462-3868 |
| 1901 E. Riverside | | 444-6400 |
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Jessica Stiles of Dikes on Bikes gives a ride to Tai Saux



JANA BIRCHUM

Fun, Healthy, and Green

Pedicabs fill a self-propelled niche in Downtown transport

BY SOFIA RESNICK

As what passes for winter in Central Texas finally arrived a couple of weeks ago, those who spend their weekend nights pedicabbing are breathing easier. It's not just the farewell to extreme heat and relentless rainfall; last summer was particularly difficult for Austin's pedicabbing community. A highly publicized hit-and-run accident occurred on the Ann W. Richards Congress Avenue Bridge, pedicabbers were restricted from loading and docking at some of the most lucrative spots Downtown, and just when it seemed like Downtown couldn't become any more congested or the competition more fierce, the already precarious Austin pedicab industry expanded. In the shadow of the increasing challenges, company owners and their riders have been forced to set aside their differences and join together, confronting human tragedy.

On Aug. 24 around 2am, just as the bars were closing, a car traveling south on the Congress Avenue Bridge hit Russell Stinnett's pedicab from behind. The impact of the crash knocked Stinnett off the bike and passengers Jayne Tracy and Jeff Uribe out of the carriage. Uribe suffered the most severe injuries. The driver of the car has not yet been identified; a \$25,000 reward is offered by Red Bull (Uribe's employer) for anyone who identifies the person responsible.

The incident highlighted a longstanding problem for bikers (pedicabbers and cyclists alike) riding on the bridge. "We've had a few bad wrecks in the past couple of years ... all of them on the Congress bridge due to riders taking the street rather than the sidewalk," said Steve Smajstrla, co-owner of Heart of

Texas Pedicab. "A regulatory snafu has contributed to this, where it's actually legal to be in the ... road but illegal to be on the sidewalk, which is our company's internal policy. ... The police, whom we have been working much more closely with, have promised to change this and told us to go ahead on the sidewalk in the meantime."

The Lush Rush

Dealing with drunks, on foot or behind the wheel, is inherent to pedicabbing, but pedicabbers fear that the consequent negative media attention dissuades pedestrians from accepting rides. Smajstrla says that people often ask him about safety. His answer is that if a pedicab's

carriage manufactured specifically for transporting people. Those who own or operate the more expensive tricycles assert their superiority. Bike-trailers "are unstable, inherently fall down, and have only the brakes which the bike comes with. They are usually poorly lit," said Greg Foulkes, owner of Capital Pedicab.

Owners of the bike-trailers defend the integrity of their pedicabs. William Schoebert, owner of ATX Pedicab, says that it's a matter of preference more than anything, his being the bike-trailer type, which he custom-builds. "You know there's been talk about, 'trailers jack-knife, and tricycles tip over,' but that's just a bunch of people having a war with each other, and there's a reason for that – because it's a very competitive business."

"They have given up the internal combustion engine for a simpler, healthier, more environmental-friendly, less consumer way of life."

– Seth Bounds, Dikes on Bikes

brakes and lights are intact, it's safe – unless, like anything in traffic Downtown, it gets hit by a motorized vehicle. "I've seen pedestrians get hit; I've seen the horse carriages get hit, anything that's slow-moving Downtown. I guess we have a lot of drunk drivers."

Another safety issue, and a source of controversy that has divided the city's pedicab companies over the years, has to do with the different types of pedicabs. There are two basic types: 1) a trailer essentially hooked to a mountain bike or 2) a tricycle with a built-in

pany, the rent runs from \$30 to \$40, and riders pay an additional fee, either a flat rate or a percentage of their tips. Riders wait for customers at street corners, around hotels, behind alleys, around parking garages. To avoid dispute, they queue like traditional cabs; the pedicabber at the front of the line gets to take the first approaching customer(s). Riders are not paid directly by the companies but make their money in customer tips, which can range anywhere from nothing to \$3 for a group of three people to \$5 a person. (Pedicab owners discourage their riders from quoting prices.)

It's an exhausting job, nobody's getting rich, and health insurance or other benefits are nonexistent – yet most who drive pedicabs say they love it. "There are a few that do this strictly as a job, but the majority of the riders out there do this as a lifestyle," said Seth Bounds, co-owner of Dikes on Bikes. "They have given up the internal combustion engine for a simpler, healthier, more environmental-friendly, less consumer way of life." Nathan Lipson, who owns Metrocycle Pedicabs and has been pedicabbing for three years, feels the same way. "Pedicabbing is a fun, healthy, and green alternative to motorized transportation," Lipson said. "The human, pedal-powered nature of pedicabs is what makes this service unique. The idea is you need to be fit and physically capable to do this job, and, consequently, people tip you in appreciation."

Sixth Street Crossroads

The most severe setback dealt to the pedicabbers this summer was the implementation of new zoning regulations. "Because the number of pedicabs is growing in Austin, we have started to impede the flow of traffic," Bounds said, "which is good [because of] the high-speed flow of drunk traffic." The congestion itself can be dangerous, and city staff took notice this summer when pedicabbers on Sixth Street hindered the progress of an ambulance. According to Cmdr. Michael Jung, of the Downtown Area Command: "On most weekend nights, the number of visitors to the Sixth Street entertainment district overwhelms the pedestrian infrastructure; therefore, for public-safety reasons, APD often barricades some of the streets to vehicular traffic in this area. The current ordinance dealing with pedicabs prohibits them from operating on streets that have been barricaded to vehicular traffic."

Before the ambulance incident, once the barricades were up, pedicabbers could cross Sixth and ride up to the intersections to pick up pedestrians; after the incident, pedicab owners received phone calls from the Austin Police Department, announcing new regulations for Sixth Street. "[APD said], 'You won't be allowed to go to Sixth Street at all,'" Smajstrla said. "You won't be allowed inside the barricades between Fifth and Seventh streets, Brazos and Red River,' which honestly would destroy our entire business. ... Pretty much our whole industry is dependent upon APD allowing us to be inside those zones to get access to Sixth Street, and that's always made me kind of nervous, because it seemed like a weak spot in the stability of things."

If the regs had been immediately enforced, it could have been devastating to the pedicab

business. In August, a meeting was convened among the pedicab owners and APD, the transportation section of the Public Works Department, and Emergency Medical Services. "The recent meetings between the pedicab owners and APD were an opportunity for each side to hear the interests of the other and then collaborate on a plan that would work to achieve those interests in a more formal manner," Jung said. "Essentially, for the pedicab owners, that meant accessibility to and for their customers; for APD, the primary concern was providing a safe environment for a dense pedestrian crowd and accessibility for emergency responders." APD agreed to work with the pedicab businesses and to start reopening intersections, in a limited way.

"Most of the drivers are avid cyclists and comply with traffic regulations, though there are occasional violations," Jung said. "The meetings we had allowed us to clearly define where the pedicabs can be and how they can operate. ... Since that time, the cooperation we have received has been commendable." John Fisher, owner of Roadkill Pedicab, said that the meetings have resulted in a welcome opportunity for the pedicab community to open the doors of communication with APD, as well as an opportunity to improve relationships within the pedicab community. "You've got all the pedicab companies together. ... They're all attending the meetings and outside of meetings discussing things in a real cordial matter, so we can do things right for the greater good for the industry here in

town," Fisher said. "We're all getting along real well ... there are little squabbles that come up now and again, but in general we're doing a pretty good job of policing ourselves and being cohesive, so we can continue to function and get business done."

AUSTIN'S PEDICAB COMPANIES

ATX Pedicab - three cabs

Dana Schoebert, atxpedicab@yahoo.com

Capital Pedicab - 45 cabs

Greg Foulkes, greg@capitalpedicab.com

Dikes on Bikes - four cabs

Seth Bounds, luminouspro2@yahoo.com

Heart of Texas Pedicab - 20 cabs

Steve Smajstrla, stralla03@hotmail.com

Lone Star Cyclery - three cabs

Bruce Swan, elijah_kane@hotmail.com

Metrocycle - 10 cabs

Nathan Lipson, nathanlipson@yahoo.com

Portland Pedicabs - one cab

Brandon Smith & Alexander Zeisberg,
portlandpedicabs@yahoo.com

Power Bike Tours - seven cabs

Amy Kelley & Rafael Viancos, rviancos@yahoo.com

Roadkill Pedicab - three cabs

John Fisher, john@roadkillpedicab.com

Triciclo Pedicabs - two cabs

Shannon Montgomery, mshannon150@hotmail.com

How Much Is Enough?

Yet limited access for numerous pedicabs can create new problems. According to Marcy Cardona, administrative specialist of the Transportation Division in Public Works, nine Austin companies are authorized to operate 99 pedicabs. There are currently 10 pedicab com-

panies in Austin, most operating fewer than five cabs. Metrocycle owns 10, Heart of Texas generally fluctuates between 20 and 22, and the recently expanded Capital Pedicab, with 45, is by far the largest. "The policy allows open entry into the market for applicants that meet the minimum standards, allowing service demand to regulate the number of pedicabs," Cardona said. "Evidence of declining service quality, equipment condition, and/or unsafe activities related to competition could result in limiting the number of pedicabs."

Most pedicab owners and riders say the competition is friendly and welcome, but, as has been true of motorized taxicabs, more pedicabs on the street means it's harder for owners or drivers to make money. Capital Pedicab's Foulkes admits to being unpopular among other owners. "Pedicab operators never want to see more pedicabs," Foulkes said. Some owners have tried to convince the city to put a cap on the number of cabs a company can own (as is already true of taxis). "The Transportation [Division] rejected [the proposal]," said Smajstrla, "saying that basically the market will sort itself out, and [they] don't want to interfere." Cardona says that while the pedicab industry is the largest it's been since she started at the city in 1999, she doesn't view the growth as a problem. "The department has received no customer complaints about pedicab service," she says, and as yet she sees no evidence of declining quality or other negative consequences of too much competition.



JANA BIRCHUM

PEDICAB PROTOCOL

Where can you find a pedicab Downtown? Follow the foot traffic. Pedicabbers tend to wait (in line) in alleys or street intersections, next to hotels, around parking lots, in front of clubs. If they're not waiting, they're riding around, scouting customers. Hail a pedicab through simple eye contact, or you might need to call out or wave. There are no set rates; the cost of a ride is a voluntary tip at your discretion, but there's no need to be stingy - especially considering the amount of money you could be spending on a taxi cab.

It's not easy work, and you should always factor in the length of the ride, steep hills, number of people sitting in the carriage, and weather conditions to your tip. Speaking of consideration, pedicab drivers do not appreciate belligerently out-of-control or drunk passengers. Do not harass the driver, try to touch him or her, tell him or her to go faster or race with other pedicabs (or cars or horse-drawn carriages). And if you feel your body rejecting one too many overpriced cocktails, don't climb into someone's pedicab; just walk it off, tiger.

PEDICAB REGULATIONS

Austin pedicab operators are required to follow the guidelines in Austin City Code, Chapter 13: "Transportation Services." The code that specifically applies to pedicabs is found in 13-2-272 through 13-2-275. Among other regulations, operators must follow traffic laws - riding on the correct side of the street, stopping fully and completely at stop signs and red lights, using turn signals, etc. All pedicabs must pass the city's inspection, and any parts of the pedicab that are damaged - lights, brakes, chains, etc. - must be repaired before riders may transport passengers. Pedicab companies determine their own hours of operation but are restricted from operating during rush hour, Monday through Friday, 7-9am, 11am-1pm, and 4-6pm. Existing City Code prohibits pedicab drivers from operating on closed streets, such as those closed by APD on weekend nights, without permission from APD or whatever city authority is enforcing barricades on a particular area. The pedicab businesses have asked City Council to amend City Code so that it expands their operating locations and times, and the city and APD are working with the companies to find solutions to increase business while maintaining safety. APD has agreed to include pedicab owners in the planning process for large events Downtown, such as South by Southwest in March.

- S.R.

SO YOU WANT TO DRIVE A PEDICAB

To legally operate a pedicab in the city of Austin, you must be at least 18 years old and licensed as a chauffeur. Then you may apply to one of the various pedicab companies in Austin (for a list of companies and their contact information, visit www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/downloads/limoadd.pdf), or you can buy your own pedicab and ride independently.

Go to the Texas Department of Public Safety documentation office at 108 Denson, and get your driving record and criminal history. Be sure to check box 3A on the driving-record request form, and ask for a certified criminal history. Once you've found out which pedicab companies are hiring, bring your certified documents to the interview, and fill out an application. The city's chauffeur's permit application can be found at www.ci.austin.tx.us/publicworks/downloads/chauffeur-rev.pdf.

The pedicab owner likes you and thinks you have the body and mindset to physically transport humans for a living? Go to the Ground Transportation Office at 1111 Rio Grande with your documents and the signed application, and take the city of Austin pedicab chauffeur license test. Provided you pass the test and all your documents are in order, you'll receive your license that day.

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the arts

32 FIRST NIGHT 34 ART PERSONNEL CHANGES 35 BOOKS 36 AFTER A FASHION 66 ARTS LISTINGS

Austin Visual Arts 'Art in America' surveys the scene

By now, Austin has been the subject of so many stories in national magazines that you'd figure it was no longer news when another one hits the stands. Maybe it isn't, but as Charles Dee Mitchell points out in the introduction to his "Report From Austin" in the December issue of *Art in America*, most of the associations people outside the city make with Austin involve music, film, or high tech. And when those glossies give over some space to gush about our li'l city on the Colorado River, those are the areas that tend to get the ink. For an established national mag to devote 6½ full pages solely to Austin's visual arts scene is pretty much unheard of. That's, well, news.

Mitchell, who writes regularly for the *Dallas Morning News* and the online arts journal *Glasstire* as well as *Art in America*, makes the case that the city's visual arts community may be finally deserving of its own share of the lime-light. He points to the completion of the Blanton



Museum of Art and plans for Arthouse and the Austin Museum of Art as evidence of growth on the museum side and to the longevity of nonprofits such as Mex-

Arte and Women & Their Work alongside the bustle of activity on the gallery scene and the Eastside as signs of health. You won't find a lot of passion for Austin art in the story, but you'll get a ton of history and information about the city's major institutions and some reasonable reporting on developments of the scene overall, plus, naturally, a bounty of art.

Inevitably, some key parts of the story get left out – what, no East Austin Studio Tour? – and some material is already out of date – Volitant Gallery, which comes in for some praise, has closed, and Mel Ziegler has left the art department at the University of Texas – but Mitchell has done the city's visual arts scene a service by taking the broad view and doing his homework. It's a truly valuable overview of the scene.

– Robert Faires

Art City Austin A new kind of art fair

What had been the Austin Fine Arts Festival is now Art City Austin, and one way the producers (Art Alliance Austin, previously the Austin Fine Arts Alliance) want to distinguish the new version of the art fair from the old is with a variety of temporary art installations on the fair site. So the alliance is soliciting proposals for temporary art installations at spots along the banks of Lady Bird Lake:

- First Street Bridge (845-foot-long, 53-foot-wide project that builds up energy as one approaches the entrance),
- Triangle Island (north end of First Street Bridge, approximately 100 feet on all sides, project that is passively interactive and draws reference to the children's area),
- the middle of Cesar Chavez Street (35-feet-wide, up to 50-feet-long project to create a visual conversation among the booth arrangement and configuration),



- Guadalupe Street entrance (35-feet-long, up to 20-feet-wide, up to 50-feet-tall installation that spans the street in which visitors can pass through easily),
- Lamar Boulevard entrance (35-feet-long, up to 20-feet-wide, up to 50-feet-tall installation that spans the street in which visitors can pass through easily),
- Art After Dark Austin (projections or lighted elements throughout site or using buildings),
- Lady Bird Lake (installation meant to be viewed from Cesar Chavez on the north shore; contact Art Alliance Austin to discuss proposals before deadline).

Artists or teams of all skill levels and in all media may apply. Performance art will be considered as part of a visual-art installation. Projects with a budget of \$5,000 or more should contact artist/member relations coordinator Allison Specter (610-4211, aspecter@artallianceaustin.org) before submitting a proposal. Projects must be able to

be set up within a 10-hour period. Download applications from www.artallianceaustin.org. Send all proposals to: Art Alliance Austin, PO Box 5705, Austin, 78763. The application deadline is Jan. 11 (proposals must be hand-delivered or postmarked by 5pm). Project jurors are Eva Buttacavoli of the Austin Museum of Art, Annette Carozzi and Ursula Davila-Villa of the Blanton Museum of Art, and Laurence Miller of Fluent Collaborative. Selected artists will be notified Jan. 16.

The Art Alliance is also looking for innovative ways to view the art in Art City. So in collaboration with the Austin chapter of the American Institute of Architects, it's launched a design competition for temporary outdoor gallery spaces at the fair. These structures – 10 feet by 10 feet by 12 feet or 10 feet by 20 feet by 12

– R.F.

Tarik O'Regan



CULTURE FLASH!

► **Tarik O'Regan**, the young British rising star of choral music whose work was spotlighted by **Conspire** in its first concert of the season, had his composition *Threshold of Night* honored with a British Composer Award in the Liturgical category on Dec. 5. The piece, a setting of poetry by Kathleen Raine, was not only the centerpiece of *Conspire*'s September program, it will also be included on the choral ensemble's first international release on the Harmonia Mundi label. *Conspire* recorded the CD at the Troy Music Hall in Troy, N.Y., in October. It's set for release in 2008. The award, O'Regan's second British Composer Award, comes with a 1,000-pound prize from the Worshipful Company of Musicians toward a new commission.

► The **Blanton Museum of Art** is tweaking its schedule in the new year. For those of you accustomed to taking advantage of the museum's late hours on Thursdays, take note: Rather than stay open till 8pm every Thursday, the Blanton is going to stay open late only one Thursday a month – the third Thursday – but it will keep the doors open even later – until 9pm – with a slew of specialty programs to choose from (Art Fix, Blanton Book Club, Artistic License, and Yoga in the Galleries), plus wine and light snacks. And free admission will still be offered, not just on late Thursdays but every other Thursday when the museum is open 10am-5pm, as well. As for the other days of the week, the hours will be Tuesday-Friday, 10am-5pm; Saturday, 11am-5pm; Sunday, 1-5pm; and closed Monday. For more information, visit www.blantonmuseum.org.

► Remember **Hot September Flurries**, that annual celebration of contemporary dance at the Blue Theater the past few autumns? Well, choreographic mastermind **Ellen Bartel** is expanding the event to three new venues and moving it to June, which by itself would pretty much necessitate a new name. But Bartel is also working to connect the event to another established celebration of dance of Texas, the Big Range Dance Festival, which has been a summer tradition in Houston for five years now. So in 2008, look for the debut of the **Big Range Austin Dance Festival**, taking place June 6-15 at the Off Center, Salvage Vanguard Theater, and the AustinVentures StudioTheater in Ballet Austin's new Butler Dance Education Center. Right now, Bartel is soliciting participation from area choreographers. Details and applications may be found at www.spankdance.com or at the venue sites. Deadline for applications is Feb. 15. For more information, e-mail spankdance@hotmail.com.

– R.F.

Magic Time

Oh, the sights you’ll see at First Night Austin

BY ROBERT FAIRES

If you think those 50-story high-rises transform the look of Downtown, you need to see it on Dec. 31. That’s when First Night Austin unleashes dozens of area artists on the heart of the city to work their creative wonders on the urban landscape. In the two years that Austin has produced this New Year’s Eve arts festival, Downtown has seen a Sauron-sized eyeball blinking on the Second Street water tower, performers dancing across the side of a hotel, a “dragon” made of light floating on Lady Bird Lake, a chalk drawing the length of the First Street Bridge, giant puppets strolling the streets, and many other equally astonishing sights. Locales that seem familiar and ordinary are made magical and extraordinary by art.

This year will be no different, with promises of rockin’ robots, a human jukebox, a dance with a bus, a colossal jackalope, and theatre under a bridge, plus more wonders from 60-plus artists and arts organizations in the city. As before, the event is for the entire community; it’s family-friendly and alcohol-free, as

well as just plain free. Activities stretch from Cesar Chavez at Congress to Auditorium Shores, including City Hall, the First Street Bridge, and the 2nd Street District, with performances and installations on plazas, sidewalks, balconies, building facades, under bridges – in short, anywhere. The fun starts at 3pm on Monday, Dec. 31, with three hours of events geared toward families, followed by a parade – the Grand Procession – at 6:30pm, early fireworks, then four more hours of evening events, winding up with the Grand Finale at midnight.

Parking in the state Capitol Complex garages and surface lots will be free of charge on New Year’s Eve. Capital Metro will provide free service between Waterloo Park and the First Night footprint from 1:30 to 8:30pm. Downtown parking is available in the Convention Center garage, 201 E. Second, for a \$7 charge. Check www.downtownaustin.com/transportation/parking/lots for other locations. For more info, visit www.firstnightaustin.org.

FIRST NIGHT 2008 SCHEDULE

Ongoing all day, 3pm-12mid

The Big Draw, *First Street Bridge*: Grab some chalk, and add your art to the pedestrian-way walls of the First Street Bridge.

Giant Games, *Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside*: Large-scale chess, checkers, and more fun games furnished by Austin Children’s Museum.

Neesha Thakkar – Time Mandala, *Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside*: Meditative installation of shimmering fabric walls on Auditorium Shores.

Legge Lewis Legge – Ultimate Pulse, *Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside*: Suspended landscape environment of 1,000 internally illuminated disks.

The Robot Group – RoboSpinArt and the Pongonator, *Buford Tower, Cesar Chavez*: Create art with interactive robotic technology, rockin’ music, lights, and more. See the Pongonator robot created for Maker Faire Austin.

Carla Nickerson – Kwanzaa Can Sculpture, *City Hall lobby, 301 W. Second*: Installation made of donated canned goods to benefit Caritas. Celebrates Kwanzaa.

Rebecca Ward – Roll-On/Roll Off, *Computer Sciences Corporation parking garage, 200 W. Cesar Chavez*: Colored sheets hanging from a loading-dock ceiling create a mazelike structure.

Blue Genie Art – Texas Jackalope, *First Street Bridge*. Climb on this 9-foot saddled jackalope for good luck, and get a complimentary photo.

Ethan Azarian – We’re Off to See the Wizard, *First Street Bridge (north end)*: Life-size cityscape modeled after Guanajuato, Mexico, through which families may wander and meet the wizard.

Guitar City Knits – Dream Island, *Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside*: Attach a personal dream to a piece of colored yarn, and weave it through the trees.

Hamid Emami – Field of Flowers, *Triangle Island*: Installation of flower lamps made of a metal base, copper leaves, and glass flowers of different sizes.



Family Festival, 3-6pm

Ongoing all afternoon

United Way – Success by 6 Puppet-Making Workshop, *Austin Children’s Museum, 201 Colorado*: Creative workshop to engage families in puppet-making and raise awareness about early-childhood education.

VSA Arts of Texas – Hat Making Workshop, *City Hall break room, 301 W. Second*: Make your own fanciful New Year’s party hat out of an HEB bag.

Lorene Espineli – Flock of Change, *Triangle Island*: Display of bird sculptures made of recycled materials and workshop where participants can assemble bird costumes from reused materials then “fly” down Congress in the Grand Procession.

Exchange Club of Austin – High Flying First Night Fun, *tent west of Triangle Island*: Make a beautiful kite to fly in the Grand Procession.

Butler Brothers – Black-Eyed Pea, *roving*: An 8-foot good-luck charm in its own tricked-out pedicab pays tribute to prosperity in the coming year.

Adam Reese, Alan Klemp, Kevin Peake, and Shannon Powers – AT&T’s Digital Portraits Austin, *City Hall Plaza, SW corner tent, 301 W. Second*: Have your photo taken and uploaded to a computer where digital artists will turn it into a portrait you can download.

3pm

Theatre Action Project – Peace Crane Project 2008: Storytelling, *City Hall, Boards and Commissions room, 301 W. Second*: Interactive storytelling session linked with citywide initiative exploring the story of *Sadako*

and the Thousand Paper Cranes. Young people from local schools have made thousands of cranes that will be installed at City Hall, then sent to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. 3-3:45pm.

April Rain School of Chinese Dance – Spring Flowers, *City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second*: Chinese traditional dances performed by children ages 4-14. 3-3:20pm.

Andrew Alsberge – The Wandering Juggler, *roving*: Alsberge juggles flower sticks and poi. 3-4pm.

3:30pm

Austin Children’s Choir – Voyages, *City Hall, lobby, 301 W. Second*: Accomplished choir performs selections from its current season. 3:30-3:50pm.

3:40pm

April Rain School of Chinese Dance – Spring Flowers, *City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second*: Chinese traditional dances performed by children ages 4-14. 3:40-4pm.

4pm

Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble – Music of the Americas, *City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second*: Music that reflects the diversity of America, including spirituals and Spanish-language holiday songs. 4-4:15pm.

Austin Children’s Choir – Voyages, *City Hall, Break Room, 301 W. Second*: Accomplished choir performs selections from its current season. 4-4:20pm.

Princesses of Persia – Persian Dance Is an Art, *City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second*: Cultural piece that highlights the customs of Persia. 4-4:30pm.

Theatre Action Project – Peace Crane Project 2008: Storytelling, *City Hall, Boards and Commissions room, 301 W. Second*: Interactive storytelling session linked with citywide initiative exploring the story of *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. Young people from local schools have made thousands of cranes that will be installed at City Hall, then sent to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. 4-4:35pm.

Clickety Cloggers – Clog Dancing!, *Computer Sciences Corporation front entrance, 200 W. Cesar Chavez*: Appalachian-style clogging performed with a modern flair. 4-4:45pm

Michele Owens-Pearce – Wings – Loops!, *City Hall Plaza, headlining stage 301 W. Second*: Expressive shapes and loops from the dance company of the Life Skills Department at Crockett High School. 4-5pm.

4:30pm

Austin Vocal Arts Ensemble – Music of the Americas, *City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second*: Music that reflects the diversity of America, including spirituals and Spanish-language holiday songs. 4:30-4:45pm.

5pm

Austin Chamber Ensemble – Moonstruck by Moonlight, *City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second*: Two sopranos and a pianist perform arias from Puccini’s *La Bohème* and other duets. 5-5:25pm.

Asylum Street Spankers – “Mommy Says No!” *City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second*: Family-friendly concert featuring songs from the band’s children’s album. 5-6pm

5:30pm

Austin School of Visual and Performing Arts – At the Ballet, *City Hall Lobby, 301 W. Second*: Student and professional performers will present a vaudeville show in the spirit of the Marx Brothers. 5:30-6pm.

5:40pm

Austin Chamber Ensemble – Moonstruck by Moonlight, *City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second*: Two sopranos and a pianist perform arias from Puccini’s *La Bohème* and other duets. 5:40-6:05pm.

6pm

Clickety Cloggers – Clog Dancing!, *CSC front entrance, 200 W. Cesar Chavez*: Appalachian-style clogging performed with a modern flair. 6-6:45pm.

6:30pm

Austin Wind Symphony – Symphonic Hollywood, *City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second*: Austin’s very own cinematic symphony performs memorable scores of film and television. 6:30-6:50pm.

Grand Procession, 6:30–7:30pm



Parade from Seventh & Congress to Cesar Chavez and west to City Hall, led by composer Graham Reynolds & the Golden Arm Trio Brass Band and featuring Truckceratops, the Caveman Collective’s bid to transcend gas-guzzling fossils; a giant bike-powered water goddess leading Barton Springs supporters dressed as swimmers, animals, and spirits; the Austin Public Library Bibliofiles, Austin’s book-cart drill team; young women leaders marching with umbrellas as the Paper Parasol Paraders; large-scale sculptures of American food staples created by art students from Lanier High, McCallum Fine Arts Academy, Reagan High, Johnston High, International High, and Bowie High; young rappers and poets performing original beats and rhymes with established hip-hop artists Blacklisted Individuals, Public Offenders, and the Xblicit Dance Group; City of Austin Weirdos; costumed youngsters from the TexARTS musical-theatre academy perform songs from *Damn Yankees*; clown Tony Maxaroni creating balloon art; people with and without disabilities creating scenes from *Alice in Wonderland* in costume, floats, and puppetry; Faith Schexnayder’s HEB Carmen Miranda Produce Float; and much more.

Evening Program

Ongoing all evening

Butler Brothers – Black-Eyed Pea, *roving*: An 8-foot good-luck charm in its own tricked-out pedicab pays tribute to prosperity in the coming year.

Adam Reese, Alan Klemp, Kevin Peake and Shannon Powers – Digital Portraits Austin, *City Hall Plaza, southwest corner tent, 301 W. Second*: Have your photo taken and uploaded to a computer where digital artists will turn it into a portrait you can download. 8-11pm.

Green Grover – Eco-Screen, *Radisson Hotel facade, 111 E. Cesar Chavez*: Interactive media platform where you can share ideas on going green for the new year.

Owl Morrison – the Angel Sculpture of Austin, *First Street Bridge*: Living statue blesses you with energy.

TroublePuppet Theater Company – Alchemy and the Wheel of Destiny, *Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside*: Mystical traveling show with *Wheel of Destiny* game and homunculus puppet-machine performers animated by Connor Hopkins and the TroublePuppet crew.

BikeZoo Austin – Machinae Humana Carnival, Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside: Giant bike puppets, human-powered jukebox, contraptions, rides, games, music, art, and performances, featuring BikeZoo Austin, Save Our Springs Alliance water puppets, Datri Bean, the Phantomograph, TroublePuppet Theater, Big Chief Kevin & the Flaming Arrow Mardi Gras Indians, Out of the Loop Acrobalance troupe.

Laura Freeman – Phantomograph, Auditorium Shores, 920 W. Riverside: Living jukebox that measures the vibrations of objects and detects songs with twirling spookiness and puppet madness.

David de Lara – Confinement, HBMG Theater Under the First Street Bridge (south end): Multimedia installation in which acrylic and oil paints are combined with an actress' performance on video.

A.C.R.O.N.Y.M. – The Jackrabbit Drought, HBMG Theater Under the First Street Bridge (south end): Excerpt from a film blending animation and traditional illustration to tell a story of Southwestern myth and horror. Trailer screens before and after each HBMG Theater performance.

7:30pm

U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett & Mayor Will Wynn – Countdown to the new year, City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second.

Graham Reynolds – Golden Arm Trio Brass Band, City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second: Eleven of Austin's top musicians rock New Orleans-style on compositions by composer Graham Reynolds, some created for First Night Austin 2008. 7:30-8pm

Lisa Choinacky – Everybody Ever, CSC front entrance, 200 W. Cesar Chavez: Multimedia performance treating alienation, wonder, and love in modern life with optimism and humor. 7:30-8pm

7:45pm

Family Finale Fireworks

8pm

Austin Wind Symphony – Symphonic Hollywood, City Hall, Council Chamber, 301 W. Second: Austin's very own cinematic symphony performs memorable scores of film and television. 8-8:20pm.

Rude Mechanicals – The Leash, HBMG Theater, Under the First Street Bridge (south end): A Western operetta that includes a mountain lion, a long-distance phone call, and a race between equal bloodhounds. 8-8:30pm.

Steve Bernal & Loren Dent – Dreams and Concrete, City Hall Lobby, 301 W. Second: Two musicians blend cello and electronic music in a musical experience that fills the space around the listener. 8-8:40pm.

DrumJam – Feel the Rhythm, City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second: High-energy percussion-based performance. 8-8:45pm.

Kurt Schuler – The Oziene Experience, Jo's Coffee Shop, 242 W. Second: All-percussion band serving high-energy African-Brazilian-Caribbean funk. 8pm.

Andrew Alsberge – The Wandering Juggler, roving: Alsberge juggles flower sticks and poi. 8-9:30pm.

8:15pm

Cybil Gustafson – Bus Line Dance, Cesar Chavez, in front of City Hall: Five dancers use modern dance, a bus, and a life-sized bus puppet to explore movement through time, place, and community. Observers may join in the culminating dance. 8:15-8:35pm.

8:30pm

Austin Taiko – Great Drums, CSC Parking Garage, 200 W. Cesar Chavez: Traditional Japanese and original songs developed in complementary rhythms by players in traditional Japanese costumes. 8:30-9:15pm.

Moving Image Arts and Education – The Body Electric, W Hotel temporary building facade, 200 Lavaca: Female filmmakers use abstract images and poetry to explore their bodies and identities. 8:30-9:30pm.

8:45pm

Rude Mechanicals – The Leash, HBMG Theater, Under the First Street Bridge (south end): A Western operetta that includes a mountain lion, a long-distance phone call, and a race between equal bloodhounds. 8:45-9:15pm.

9pm

Kurt Schuler – The Oziene Experience, Jo's Coffee Shop, 242 W. Second: All-percussion band serving high-energy African-Brazilian-Caribbean funk. 9pm.

Steve Bernal & Loren Dent – Dreams and Concrete, City Hall Lobby, 301 W. Second: Two musicians blend cello and electronic music in a musical experience that fills the space around the listener. 9-9:40pm.

El Tule – Volumen 1, City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second: High-energy bilingual music about art, history, and culture. 9-9:45pm.

9:15pm

Cambiare Productions – Transformations, HBMG Theater Under the First Street Bridge (south end): Multidisciplinary, multimedia collaboration of women artists inspired by Anne Sexton's *Transformations* that looks at society's views of women. 9:15-9:35pm.

9:30pm

Lisa Choinacky – Everybody Ever, CSC front entrance, 200 W. Cesar Chavez: Multimedia performance treating alienation, wonder, and love in modern life with optimism and humor. 9:30-10pm

9:45pm

Debutantes and Vagabonds – Hubris, HBMG Theater under the First Street Bridge (south end): Come meet the friendly, customs-monitoring staff of the alliance and learn how to improve your unbearable inadequacy and find out what it's like to matter! 9:45-10:10pm.

10pm

Kurt Schuler – The Oziene Experience, Jo's Coffee Shop, 242 W. Second: All-percussion band serving high-energy African-Brazilian-Caribbean funk. 10pm.

Steve Bernal & Loren Dent – Dreams and Concrete, City Hall Lobby, 301 W. Second: Two musicians blend cello and electronic music in a musical experience that fills the space around the listener. 10-10:40pm.

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Debutantes and Vagabonds – Hubris, HBMG Theater under the First Street Bridge (south end): Come meet the friendly, customs-monitoring staff of the alliance and learn how to improve your unbearable inadequacy and find out what it's like to matter! 10:45-11:10pm.

Palm School Choir, Rockin' Grand Finale, City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second: Directed by Gavin Tabone, fifth- and sixth-graders from the Palm school in Southeast Austin perform Wilco and Flaming Lips songs with rock musicians. 10:45pm-12mid.

11pm

Kurt Schuler – The Oziene Experience, Jo's Coffee Shop, 242 W. Second: All-percussion band serving high-energy African-Brazilian-Caribbean funk. 11pm.

11:15pm

Cambiare Productions – Transformations, HBMG Theater under the First Street Bridge (south end): Multidisciplinary, multimedia collaboration of women artists inspired by Anne Sexton's *Transformations* that looks at society's views of women. 11:15-11:45pm

12mid

DrumJam – Feel the Rhythm, City Hall Plaza, headlining stage, 301 W. Second: High-energy percussion-based performance.

Luke Savisky – Film Actions VI, Lady Bird Lake: Surprise spectacle in concert with the Grand Finale.

Grand Finale Fireworks, Lady Bird Lake

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Monumental Shift

Major personnel changes across the Austin arts scene in 2007 signal the start of a new era

BY ROBERT FAIRES

When the history of Austin is written, 2007 will be remembered as the year the skyline erupted. After years of pretty much holding steady with a cluster of buildings in the 20- to 25-story range, Downtown Austin saw a dozen new construction projects initiated that will eventually give the cityscape spires of 30, 45, 55 stories. Once they are all realized, the face of the city will be substantially altered, such that anyone coming to Austin for the first time in 2009 will see a very different city than someone who was here in 2006.

Something similar has been going on in the Austin arts community this past year. In 2007, an unusual number of personnel changes took place in leadership positions in the city's cultural organizations. More than a half-dozen artistic leaders left or announced their departure from major companies or institutions, including Austin Lyric Opera, Austin Shakespeare Festival, and Salvage Vanguard Theater. An equal number of top administrators did the same. That's more than is typically seen in three or four years, but what's striking is not only the number of leaders leaving but the number who have affiliations of longstanding with their respective organizations: More than half have been in the top spot for at least five years; three have been leading their organizations for 15 years. And in the world of the arts, which consumes energy and time at about four times the rate of normal human life, that's two generations; you might as well be talking about half a century.

In other words, that's a helluva lot of blood, sweat, and institutional memory. Especially when you consider that several of these folks were engaged in major efforts to take their organizations to the next level: Jessie Otto

Hite getting the new Blanton Museum of Art facilities built, Richard Buckley bringing Philip Glass' opera *Waiting for the Barbarians* to Austin for its U.S. premiere, Ann Ciccolella working for passage of Proposition 4 with \$10 million in bond funding for Zachary Scott Theatre Center's new theatre, Jason Neulander getting Salvage Vanguard Theater both a home and one of its signature productions touring nationally. It's a bit stunning to see arts advocates and art makers this deeply involved in the local scene, along with such mainstays as Mary Moody Northern Theatre business manager Annie Suite (nine years), UT Performing Arts Center Director Pebbles Wadsworth (15 years), and Texas Commission on the Arts Executive Director Rick Hernandez (30 years with the agency), taking their leave within the same year. It may seem too easy to say that it's the end of an era, but considered in light of the profound changes that many of these cultural agencies are undergoing – building facilities, expanding programming, achieving a national and even international presence – there's truth in the cliché. These are people who played major roles in developing and sustaining Austin's cultural scene during the reinvigoration and expansion of the Nineties and the first years of the 21st century. Their departure is one sign of that period giving way to another.

Of course, the flip side is that these shifts are bringing much new blood into these organizations and into the scene as a whole. Previously in these pages, we've discussed the changes being wrought by the addition of new cultural facilities, but the individuals who will manage those facilities and create the work in them have just as much potential to affect the city's cultural identity. Kevin

THE CHANGES IN 2007

The following list charts most of the major changes in personnel in Austin's cultural organizations this year. In some instances, successors have not yet been hired for the departing leaders. – R.F.

Arthouse

Leaving: adjunct curator Regine Basha (three years)
Joining: curator Elizabeth Dunbar
Austin Lyric Opera
Leaving: managing director Tammy Hale, Artistic Director Richard Buckley (four years)
Joining: General Manager Kevin Patterson
Austin Shakespeare Festival
Leaving: Artistic Director Guy Roberts (five years)
Joining: Artistic Director Ann Ciccolella
Austin Script Works
Leaving: Artistic Director C. Denby Swanson (three years)
Joining: Executive Director Christina Moore
Austin Singers
Leaving: music director Ara Carapetyan (two years)
Joining: music director Dwight Bigler
Blanton Museum of Art
Leaving: Director Jessie Otto Hite (15 years plus 14 more years on staff)
Leaving: curator of Latin American art Gabriel Pérez-Barreiro

Conspirare

Joining: Executive Director Erich Vollmer
Mexican American Cultural Center
Joining: program manager Amparo Garcia-Crow
Mary Moody Northern Theatre at St. Edward's
Leaving: business manager Annie Suite (nine years)
Joining: managing director Michelle Polgar
UT Performing Arts Center
Leaving: Director Pebbles Wadsworth (15 years)
Salvage Vanguard Theater
Leaving: Artistic Director Jason Neulander (15 years)
Texas Commission on the Arts
Leaving: Executive Director Rick Hernandez (five years as executive director plus 25 more on staff)
Joining: Executive Director Gary Gibbs
Zachary Scott Theatre Center
Leaving: managing director Ann Ciccolella (eight years)
Joining: managing director Elisabeth Challener

Patterson's experiences with professional opera in Pittsburgh and across the country have the potential to take Austin Lyric Opera in new directions and, by extension, influence Austin's feeling about opera in general. Elisabeth Challener's deep background in capital campaigns will no doubt have an impact on the Zachary Scott Theatre Center's efforts to raise funds for its proposed \$20 million theatre facility. Elizabeth Dunbar takes on the curatorial mantle at Arthouse with a strong grounding in contemporary work that could make the Texas association even more of a national force in identifying and exhibiting new directions in art.

Couple all of this with the changes under way with the arts infrastructure – the recent openings of Salvage Vanguard Theater, Ballet Austin's Butler Dance Education Center, and the Mexican American Cultural Center; this fall's makeover for the Zachary Scott Theatre Center; and the openings of the Long Center and the Blanton Museum's Smith Building next year – and the upshot here is the same as with the skyline: Anyone coming to Austin for the first time in 2009 will see a different city than someone who was here in 2006. What that looks like may not be as visible as a clutch of 50-story skyscrapers, but if the Austin arts scene's past history is any indication, it stands to be just as dramatic. ■

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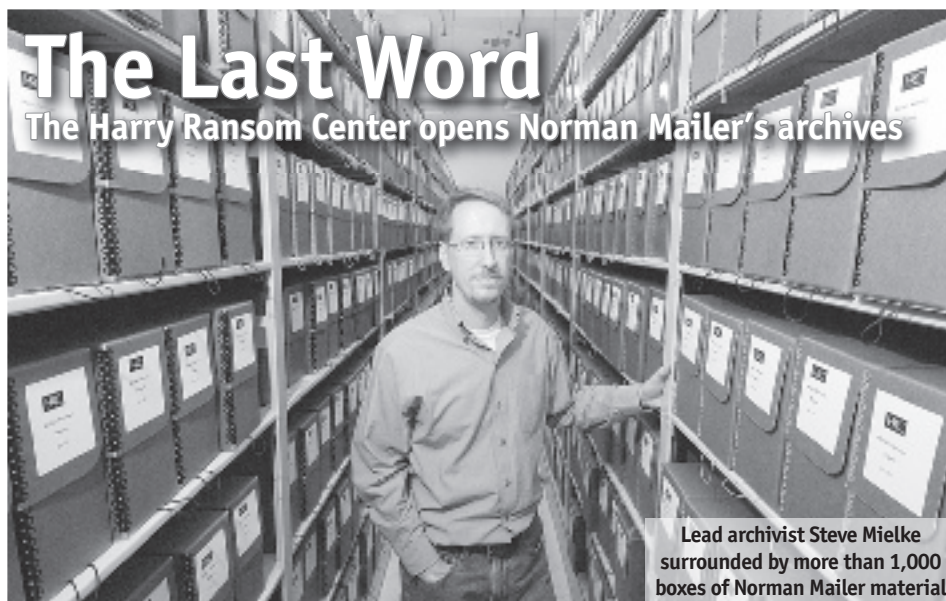
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34 | THE AUSTIN CHRONICLE | DECEMBER 28, 2007 | austinchronicle.com



Lead archivist Steve Mielke surrounded by more than 1,000 boxes of Norman Mailer material

There won't be a ceremony, no hullabaloo or doors dramatically thrown open, but on Jan. 3, Norman Mailer will be open for business. He left the mortal coil earlier this year, but in his stead, he left a voluminous archive that the Harry Ransom Center acquired in 2005 for \$2.5 million (a portion of which Mailer regifted to the University of Texas for promotions and last year's symposium, which he attended). Two years later, lead archivist Steve Mielke and his staff have finally wrapped up the exhaustive filing process; Mailer's archives will now be accessible to scholars and the general public alike – all it takes is a picture ID (and, presumably, your best behavior).

It's the HRC's largest individual literary collection and certainly Mielke's longest, most involved project. He benefited, for a time, from Mailer's own involvement in the process. Up until his death, Mailer helped in identifying and explicating some of the 40,000 pieces of correspondence, although, Mielke notes, considering some of the materials were more than 50 years old, "he couldn't always remember."

It was fascinating and far-ranging work, says Mielke, owing to Mailer's role not just as celebrated author but also filmmaker, activist, politician, professor, and outsized personality. When I visited the archives last week, Mielke pulled out one artifact after another, including original printing plates from a canceled run of Mailer's third novel, *The Deer Park*. A pocket address book from his time in Hollywood boasted scribbled names like Shelly Winters to Monty Clift, and his Rolodex from the Seventies read like a Who's Who of the times – from Truman Capote and Charles Mingus to Hugh Hefner, *The Mike Douglas Show*, and the famed Manhattan restaurant Elaine's.

The collection, which currently only extends to 2005 (the last two years of Mailer's life are still being processed), is housed in more than 1,000 boxes. For a little perspective, imagine stacking them one on top of the other – they'd extend as tall as the UT Tower. Those interested in perusing the archive are recommended to first check out the HRC's online finding aid for a detailed inventory of the Mailer archives (www.hrc.utexas.edu/mailer). – Kimberley Jones

THE BOOK OF OTHER PEOPLE

Edited by Zadie Smith
Penguin, 304 pp,
\$15 (paper)

Here's a collection of short stories, or sometimes character studies passing as short stories, gathered and edited by a woman who knows her way around contemporary fiction to the point of creating excellent examples of it herself. Profits from the sales of the book will benefit 826NYC, a nonprofit dedicated to helping kids ages 6 to 18 learn to write creatively and effectively. All the stories in this collection, then, written with the injunction to simply "make somebody up," were donated pro bono for inclusion in a volume that comes further blessed with a striking Charles Burns cover.

"You get what you pay for," is a maxim likely familiar to anyone who's weathered parental opinion. Funny, because most of the stories in this collection are worth so much. Very funny, because a few of them are priceless and would, separately, enrich your life to a greater extent



than suggested by the less-than-a-Jackson you'll have to trade for the whole megillah.

Among the fattest rewards: A.L. Kennedy's "Frank," an account of the suffering and confusion experienced by an autistic (we're assuming) police specialist, written with such crystalline precision as to make the author seem genetically derived from an outcropping of living quartz; Chris Ware's "Jordan Wellington Lint," which chronicles a boy from birth to age 13 in full-color panels that highlight the holy and grisly minutiae of childhood as effectively as they realize the potential of sequential art; George Saunders' "Puppy," another of the writer's darkly satirical explorations that evoke a modern-day Faulkner scripting for some deeper version of *The Simpsons*; and Jonathan Lethem's "Perkus Tooth," a narrative that intoxicates the reader with literary wine borrowed lovingly from the cellars of Borges, spiked with sweat from the forehead of Philip K. Dick and served in flawless tumblers on an old TV tray.

Other contributors' names to conjure with: Miranda July, Vendela Vida, Daniel Clowes, A.M. Homes, and more. We'll mark Nick Hornby's "J. Johnson," illustrated by Posy Simmonds, as just a clever confection, but that's the least of what you'll find in this – highly recommended – book.

– Wayne Alan Brenner



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Roy Lichtenstein, *Modern Art II*, 1996, Screenprint, edition AP 9/10, 48 3/8 X 38 5/16 inches, Collection of Jordan D. Schnitzer, 2005.94, © Estate of Roy Lichtenstein

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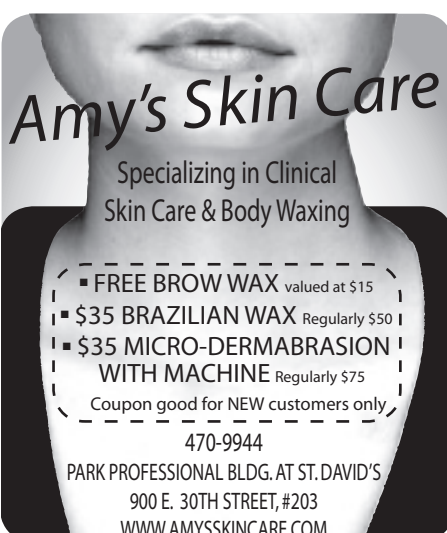
PHOTOS BY SEABROOK/JUICYTHIS.COM



"We ain't changin' nothin'," said Broken Spoke owner James White, who is hanging onto his 1 acre in the midst of 8 acres of development being planned around him.

Frankly, I think there could be a number of excellent books on bad parenting. Imagine ***Susan Smith's Guide to Good Parenting***, which might offer such tidbits as, "If things get tense at home, just load the kids into the car and take a ride to a nearby lake for an afternoon of 'swimming.'" Or ***Dina Lohan's*** book on parenting? Dina (called ***White Oprah*** by those in the know) could write ***How to Ride Your Daughter's Coattails Into Notoriety***, offering advice such as: "Pretend you're the same age your daughter is. Dress like her, party with her, be her." And then there could have been ***Patsy Ramsey's Guide to Good Discipline***.

Write to our Style Avatar with your related events, news, and hautey bits: **style@austinchronicle.com** or PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765 or 458-6910 (fax).



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food

40 TEXAS SPIRITS
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VIKING STAND MIXER

In my years as a professional pastry cook, my most trusted pieces of kitchen equipment were a 20-quart **Hobart** mixer and its smaller cousin, the 5-quart **KitchenAid** tabletop stand mixer. The 20-quart Hobart sold when I closed my last commercial kitchen, but the 5-quart KitchenAid that I've had for nearly 30 years still chugs along, despite an unsightly dent where it was dropped on its head in a moving accident. The newer 6-quart KitchenAid that was a birthday gift seven years ago holds a place of honor on my baker's rack and sees plenty of use.

Straying from my long-term relationship with Hobart/KitchenAid never occurred to me until the **Viking Range Corp.** began offering two mixers through their culinary products line – the VSM500, a 5-quart stand mixer with an 800-watt motor that retails for \$400, and the VSM700, a 7-quart stand mixer with a 1,000-watt motor that retails for \$525. Viking is known for the fine quality of craftsmanship of their large appliances. I was fascinated by the prospect of working with a mixer built to their quality specifications with a 7-quart capacity and a motor with 1,000 watts of power. I requested a product sample and used it when making desserts for friends, family, and *Chronicle* colleagues during the holiday season just passed. Now I can't imagine baking without it. The tilt-lift motor head and slanted-side mixing bowl took a little getting used to, but I've found that the beaters mix all the way to the bottom of the slanted bowl, which means less scraping of the bottom and sides of the bowl is necessary when preparing batters. The motor is quiet and powerful on all settings, and there's no rocking or traveling across the counter when



mixing a heavy load, such as bread dough. Batters emerge silky-smooth and perfectly mixed, and 16 egg whites achieved maximum volume. The functional basic attachments are a balloon whisk, a flat paddle, and a very serious dough hook. It is also possible to add multiple attachments: pouring shield, colander/sieve, pasta roller, food grinder and stuffer, high-speed disk slicer/shredder, high-speed blender jar, juice extractor. I'll be keeping this one. If you envision a Viking in your future, the mixers can be purchased locally at Faraday's Kitchen Store and both Breed & Co. outlets and in Wimberley at Kiss the Cook Kitchen Essentials. For more information, go to www.vikingrange.com.
– V.B.W.

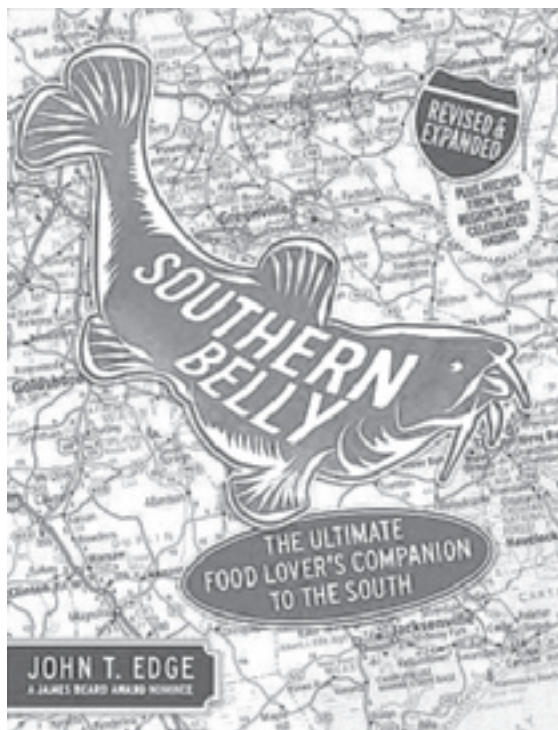
SOUTHERN BELLY: THE ULTIMATE FOOD LOVER'S COMPANION TO THE SOUTH

by John T. Edge, Algonquin Books, 352 pp., \$14.95

I have yet to visit the American South in person, but after reading John T. Edge's updated and expanded edition of *Southern Belly*, I am now literally salivating to take a road trip. Part travel guide, part history lesson, the book takes the reader on a mouthwatering expedition of Edge's beloved Southern food institutions. It includes historical pictures, whimsical drawings and maps, a few tried-and-true recipes, and a selection of recommended establishments that serve what Edge calls "honest food," from back-door home kitchens to cinder-block cafes, chicken shacks, fish camps, barbecue stands, and everything in between.

Edge, who has been dubbed by *The Miami Herald* "the Faulkner of Southern food," passionately recounts the stories behind the unsung heroes of the Southern kitchens, while poignantly reminding us of the painful days of segregation and the history-making efforts of those who fervently opposed it. In his inimitable laid-back, witty style, Edge travels the back roads from his home state of Mississippi to Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, Alabama, and even Texas, relishing places that serve local specialties found nowhere else (Kool-Aid-flavored pickles, for instance).

With a brief stop in Austin to laud the virtues of the chicken-fried steak at **Threadgill's** and the **Broken Spoke** and the wonders of the **Frisco**, he moves on to other nearby food cathedrals such as **Southside Market** in Elgin, **Kreuz** and **Smitty's** in Lockhart, the **Taylor Cafe**, and San Antonio's iconic **Mi Tierra**, before continuing on to Louisiana, Tennessee, and Florida. Open the book randomly, on any page, and enjoy the ride.
– Claudia Alarcón



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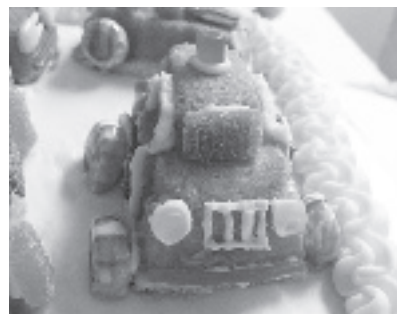
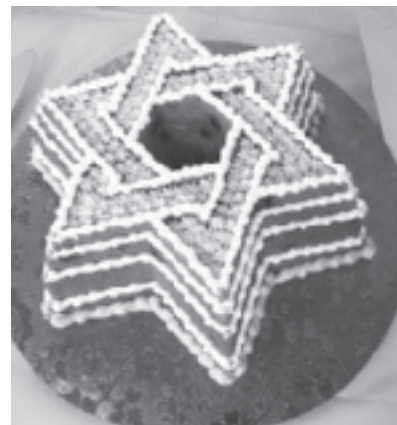
FOOD-O-FILE

BY VIRGINIA B. WOOD

Looking back on Austin food in 2007, what stands out most in my mind are chocolates, desserts, and pastries. I know, I know – I'm a fat gal with a sweet tooth, what else would I notice? – but it really is more than that. This past year saw the creations of several fine chocolatiers enter a wider market – **Chocolat**, **Fat Turkey Chocolate**, **Luxe Sweets**, **Bakerman's Patisserie and Chocolatier**, and **Tempt Chocolates**, for example. A handful of talented pastry restaurant and hotel professionals changed jobs – **Amanda Rockman** left **Asti** for Chicago and **Tony Sansalone** took over at the **Driskill**; **Judy Marts** and **Mark Chapman** struck out on their own with new businesses, but everyone was working at the top of their game. Cupcakes were popping up all over – **Babycakes**, **Kneaded Pleasures**, and **Hey Cupcake!** New pastry shops opened, such as **Dream Bakery**, **Sweet Tempered**, and the **Cookie Jar**, and the new proprietors of Bakerman's Patisserie and Chocolatier switched from doughnuts to fine French pastries and handmade chocolates. Even home bakers got into the act, entering dozens of

cookies in at **Faraday's Kitchen Store** holiday baking contest and also showing well in nationally sponsored contests. Foodwise, 2007 was a very sweet year... As a pastry cook by trade, I'm always interested when the creative folks at **Nordic Ware** in Minnesota come up with new additions to their distinctive line of bakeware. This year they produced a stamp-cutter that makes it possible for bakers to cut out a perfect lattice-top crust or one decorated with a circle of hearts. There is a new Star of David Bundt-type pan with a snazzy art-deco look to it and two new pans designed exclusively for **Williams-Sonoma**: a plaque of adorable classic cars and a three-dimensional stand-up Santa Claus. The big box of samples arrived just in time for me to use the pans while preparing my usual cookies, candies, and yule logs for our annual *Chronicle* holiday party. The cute little cars were decorated with colorful candies (a special kit also available at Williams-Sonoma) and placed on top of a sheet cake trimmed with crushed peppermints. I filled the Star of David pan with an orange-walnut butter cake with chocolate-covered cranberries and used that same batter minus the berries for Santa. Thanks to some expert decorating assistance from **Kristie Sasser** of **All in One Bake Shop** and **Texas Culinary Academy** pastry student **Alejandro Torres**, the cakes were a huge hit at the party. Lucky for me, photographer **Todd V. Wolfson** managed to get some shots before they were devoured. See more photos online with this column at austinchronicle.com.

Now that we're one holiday celebration down with one more to go, it's time to consider food and drinks for **New Year's Eve**. I'll be going to the annual soiree thrown by some college friends, toting Champagne and a big ol' ham that was a gift from the **Stubb's Legendary Bar-B-Q** holiday mail-order catalog. At home, I'll make black-eyed peas and corn bread to eat for luck and prosperity. If you don't already have a private party lined up or reservations at one of the many restaurants, bars, or hotels eager to help you ring in the new year, here's a suggestion: Invite some friends over for party snacks and cocktails made with some of the new Texas distilled spirits (one of Wes' fellow tasters has provided recipes), and finish the evening with Champagne. For a wealth of good bar-food ideas, check out *Great Bar Food at Home* (Wiley & Sons, \$17.95) by Wimberley author **Kate Heyhoe**. This slim volume offers inviting recipes for plenty of savory bar snacks plus anecdotes, history, and lore from some of the world's most famous watering holes. Who knows? Some Texas-flavored cocktails paired with quick and tasty dishes could make your house a famous holiday party venue, too.



These were a few of the decorative cakes at the recent *Austin Chronicle* holiday party. See more of Todd Wolfson's photos online.

Texas Gets Spirited Away

Taste-testing Texas liquors against the world

BY WES MARSHALL



PHOTOS BY WES MARSHALL

There's a new trend in the Texas adult-beverage business: liquor. Locally produced vodka, rum, *limoncello*, and orange liqueur are all available now, and shortly we'll be seeing cask-aged spirits, boozed Popsicles, and gin. We're always happy to see new gustatory businesses in Central Texas, especially if they're making good products.

To answer that question, we decided to put all the Central Texas liquors to the test, double blind, against some of the best competitors in the world. Do they deserve a place on your liquor shelf? For Texas brands like Savvy and Tito's to attract buyers away from Grey Goose or Skyy, they have to be as good or better. We'll get to the results in just a minute.

Tito Changes Texas

After hundreds of wineries, breweries, and brewpubs had gotten Texans' attention, we knew one day someone would jump through all the federal and state regulatory hoops and start offering distilled spirits. That someone was Tito Beveridge, creator of Tito's Handmade Vodka. Beveridge worked hard, from creating a new vodka recipe to searching out the cheapest real estate in Travis County for his facility. In the beginning, he marketed with guerrilla tactics. He'd go to liquor-store parking lots in his old pickup, and when he'd see a customer walk out of the store, he'd rush up and ask them if they'd like to try his vodka. He'd take them back to the truck and give them a pour. A few turned around, went back in the store, and bought a bottle. That gives you an idea of how hard he worked to make his brand a success.

Beveridge is a charming, handsome guy with an aw-shucks attitude, and he did a fine job selling to bars and stores. But he recognized that if he was going to move to the next level, he'd have to get some professional help. Instead of having fun with the money he was making, he kept plowing the profits back into the company. It's now worth millions.

People who do things well make it look effortless. Think of Tiger Woods or Stephen King or Eric Clapton. Well, you can add Beveridge to that list. He is smart, daring, and blessed with great timing. And he's now a multimillionaire. You can understand why others might want to emulate that success, especially when Beveridge made it look so easy. What most don't know is how Beveridge couldn't get financing and had to max out every credit

card he could get his hands on. Or how, until recently, most of his employees made more than he did. Or how many miles he had to put on his truck trying to get anyone anywhere to put his vodka on their shelves. Beveridge's road to success only looks easy because none of us was riding around with him every day or watching him sweat trying to pay his bills. Still, it's very tempting for a confident entrepreneur to try to match Beveridge's accomplishments. And we're seeing plenty of others who want to join the club.

First out of the gate was Paula Angerstein, an Austinite with a taste for rustic Italian liqueurs. Paula smartly decided that her best shot at the Texas drinker would be something for a margarita, so she started with Paula's Texas Orange, a strong orange liqueur. She ended up capturing a big market quickly. First, her product is delicious. But she's also a charming seller, her product has a catchy name, and it looks good on a shelf. She also earned points in the Austin area by visiting lots of bars and liquor stores. She added a Texas limoncello that aims straight at the Italian version (we'll have the results of that test, too). She's now in the position of having lots of potential market but also having to decide whether she wants to invest the extra money and time it would take to supply that market. Like Beveridge, she's made her success look simple. It's not.

Everyone Else in the Pool!

There are now six more brave souls who have decided to jump in this pool. First in was Arctic Spirits, a company in Spicewood whose owners wanted to find a way to have a frozen margarita out on their boat. They came up with a recipe they liked, packaged it in a handy plastic squeeze tube, and put it in the deep freeze. Everyone they knew liked it, so they decided to go commercial. They should be out in the near future in mar-

garita, strawberry margarita, rum punch, Cape Cod, hurricane, and piña colada flavors.

The next permit went to Savvy Distillers. This is a brand with a pedigree, since it is owned by Chad Auler of the Fall Creek Vineyards family. Auler's family has connections all over the state, so he has had a very fast ramp up, and you can now find Savvy Handcrafted Vodka almost anywhere in Texas. Chad took a page from the Tito book and spent a very long time working on his recipe, his column still, and his new proprietary filtration system.

These steps are more important than you might think, because, by definition, vodka is supposed to be *neutral* grain spirits at 190 proof or higher with water added to bring the alcohol down to the chosen proof. In theory, they shouldn't taste all that different. Consequently, many huge companies just throw some vodka in a bottle and spend all their money on marketing. You know the sales pitch: "Our vodka is produced with only organic grains, pressed between the thighs of young Swedish virgins, mixed with pure water from deep under the northern mountains of Iceland. Blah, blah, blah." When you focus on marketing, it is easy to be nonchalant about the quality of the vodka, so taking the time to think through the product and showing some pride in your creation are good things.

Savvy uses a column still. There is a lot of controversy about whether a column still is better than a pot still. The simple answer is Stevie Ray Vaughan would sound better playing a \$40 Sears guitar than I would sound on a \$3,000 Strat; it's all in the hands of the artist. Pot stills are traditional in the small single-malt distillers in Scotland and the Cognac area of France. Column stills are popular with corporations making trillions of cases. What's important is how it tastes. Auler tried it both ways and feels that he gets a better and more consistent vodka using a column still.

Savvy has one other ace in its arsenal. The family owns the part of Fall Creek that falls into Lake Buchanan, and it is some of the best spring water in Texas. That's what goes into Savvy Vodka.

The next local license went to San Luis Spirits in Dripping Springs, makers of Dripping Springs Texas Vodka. The Kelleher brothers, Gary and Kevin, are the owners, distillers, and sales force. Kevin has spent the last 30 years working all over the world in the machine-tool business. When the first Gulf War hit, no one was buying the huge toolmakers he was selling, so he moved back to the U.S. Gary worked for Boston Market and got downsized by McDonald's when the company bought the chain. After talking it over, they decided to sink their life savings into creating a distillery. Gary is the vodka-maker, and he has designed his own still, which has a few fascinating design elements aimed at leaving a little more flavor in the product. You can see the system on their website (www.drippingspringsvodka.com), but they claim it effectively creates a microdistillation process equal to distilling the product 20 times. In any case, it's not like any still I've ever seen.



Graham Barnes Distilling makes Treaty Oak Platinum Rum. Owners Bruce Graham and Daniel Barnes are aiming at a dry, neutral style rather than the big, dark, brooding Jamaican style. And while most everyone in the spirits industry buys their alcohol already made from a company like Archer Daniels Midland and distills it from there, Graham and Barnes start from scratch. Their concept is to make it solely from Texas ingredients, even to the point of helping keep a few sugarcane growers in the Valley stay in business by buying their real Texas molasses, the basis of Treaty Oak Platinum Rum. After filtering the sulfur and other nasties out of the molasses, they ferment the pure sugar, drop it into a column still, cook it slowly, then mix it with Hill Country spring water and filter it twice through activated carbon. Treaty Oak started distribution this past

continued on p.42



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ferent. Open records here: I should say six, because when we started, there was no Grey Goose. I didn't think of it, and, at the end, after the final tabulation when everyone knew what they were drinking, one of the judges asked me why we hadn't included it. Sayre was kind enough to tell downstairs for a bottle, so we did taste it in the competition, but it was not double blind.

The Results

We tallied the votes and started opening them from last to first. X Rated got sixth place. Dripping Springs was next, at fifth. As one of the judges commented, the medicinal notes were just too pronounced. On the positive side, I can tell you there was a wide discrepancy of scores on the Dripping Springs, with both Broglie and Tidwell picking it as their second favorite. Fourth place went to Altius (in a tie with the Grey Goose – again, not double blind). Skyy 90 was in third place, and the judges were just about unanimous that that was where it belonged. And the top two places went to Texas brands. Second place went to Savvy. Only Tidwell picked it as No. 1, but everyone else ranked it very high.

If you're keeping score, you've probably figured out that the winner was Tito's. And Tito's didn't just win by a hair; it trumped the competition, with Kucan, Robinson, Huffaker, and Broglie all picking it as the top vodka, and most everyone else ranked it very highly.

Next up was the rum. If you've had the chance to try Charbay Tropical Islands Cane Rum, you know it is the gold standard. I have never found

a better silver rum at any price. So the Treaty Oak Platinum Rum had some serious competition. Third place went to the Flor de Caña, a rum I've always enjoyed, especially at the price. Treaty Oak beat it out, though, with both Sayre and Aechternacht picking it as their favorite. Charbay took first with five first-place votes.

Finally, we moved to the sweet drinks, where Paula's took top honors. Paula's Texas Lemon was judged better than Caravella Limoncello, one of the better widely available limoncellos available in Texas. As Aechternacht put it, "The Caravella tastes like lemon pie, and the Paula's tastes like a lemon tart." And Paula's Texas Orange beat Patron Citrónage with what the judges referred to as having a truer fruit flavor.

After All That Hard Work, the Creativity Comes Bounding Through

Despite having spent a couple of hours ingesting hard liquors, none of the judges wanted to leave, and we started talking about the results and what it meant for Texas spirits. As everyone dropped their "judge" uniform and started drinking, Kucan, who is just as incredibly creative as you would imagine the best mixologist in all of the Hilton hotels worldwide would be, started tossing out ideas she had used for Texas drinks so fast that none of us could keep up with her. I asked if she would write a couple down so that we could all enjoy them. She did not only that, but she created a brand-new dessert cocktail – without Texas ingredients – just for our readers. ■

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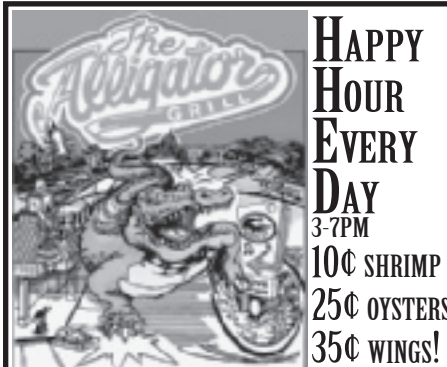


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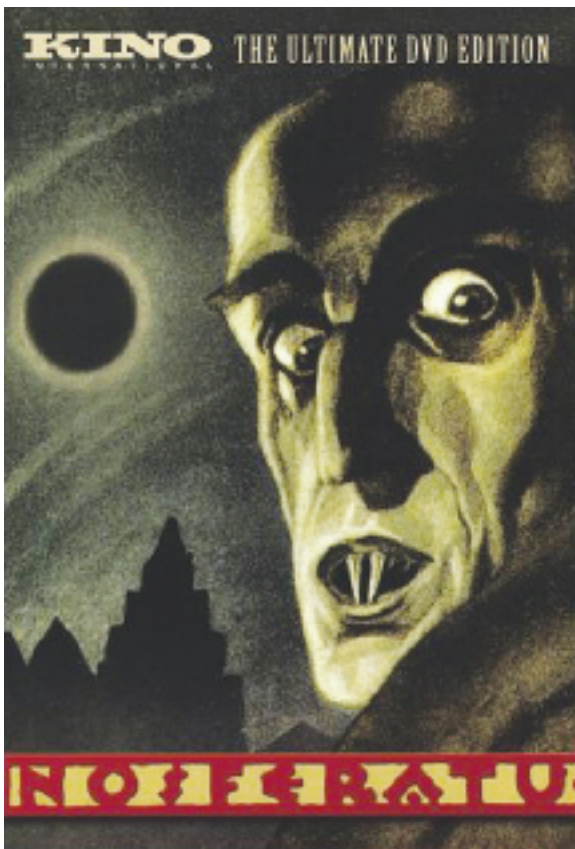


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Before F.W. Murnau sunk his teeth into Count Orlok, he tackled another phantom: Satan. The most ambitious of seven supernatural (and since lost) Murnau movies was a time-traveling triptych concerning Old Scratch himself – or so we learn in “The Language of Shadows,” an exhaustive documentary attached to Kino Video’s new two-disc *Nosferatu: The Ultimate DVD Edition*.

Restored by an international team using footage from prints the world over, *Nosferatu* stands at a robust 93 minutes, in contrast to dozens of cheap, incomplete, public domain copies. And with the print close to pristine, Murnau’s deliberate, painterly compositions and pervasive shadows fill each frame. Gorgeous, historically accurate tints bathe the happier domestic scenes in a hearth-side yellow and cast Orlok’s castle in shocking, asphyxiated blues and greens. The largest departure from the 1922 original – aside from a newly recorded version of the original score, belying the film’s oft-neglected subhead, *A Symphony of Horror* – is the re-creation of the original inter-titles in English on disc one. (For purists, the original German cards, with subtitles, are preserved on disc two.)

One of the most influential films of all time, it’s almost superfluous to discuss the film itself and its considerable merits. But if anything, this crystalline edition imprints Murnau’s fascination with nature’s grotesqueries – carnivorous plants, plague rats, and tentacled polyps, not to mention the titular bloodsucker – even deeper on the psyche. The same goes for vampirism’s considerable psychosexual head-fucks – the emasculating power of Orlok’s bite transforming ostensible hero Hutter from confident husband into emasculated hysteric, his wife’s slaying the beast in an early reversal of gender roles, or the transparent homoerotic subtexts foregrounded by definitive translations from the original German. (Asks Count Orlok, “Can we not stay together a little longer, my lovely man?”)

In crafting their “ultimate edition,” Kino’s bridged the frights onscreen to the dark history of the film itself: “The Language of Shadows” imparts that *Nosferatu* was the only film from the Prana production company – an unabashedly Masonic and occult concern founded by a man known to pal around with Aleister Crowley. Scared yet? – *Wells Dunbar*

THE PHILOSOPHY OF FILM NOIR

edited by Mark T. Conard

The University Press of Kentucky, 248 pp., \$24.95 (paper)

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE FICTION FILM

edited by Steven M. Sanders

The University Press of Kentucky, 232 pp., \$35

How could any true film nerd resist a book with a chapter titled “Symbolism, Meaning, and Nihilism in Quentin Tarantino’s *Pulp Fiction*”? That and the arguments that both Tarantino’s pop-culture references and the flickering movie theatre itself have become the new American church swirl around *The Philosophy of Film Noir*, a tome that is sometimes fussily academic but often deeply fun in an admittedly dark, morose, alienated way. In other words, it’s 100% noir, the film genre generally held to have begun with *The Maltese Falcon* and ended with *Touch of Evil*. (*Pulp Fiction* fits in the neo-noir realm of later films that pay homage to the canon.) We’re talking World War II and its aftermath, a time of brooding disenfranchisement in the crumbling city. Yes, noir owes its roots as much to gritty, pulpy hard-boiled writers like Dashiell Hammett, from whose book *The Maltese Falcon* was adapted into the film; James M. Cain; and Raymond Chandler.

Does it also deserve a tip of the hat to philosophers like Martin Heidegger and Friedrich Nietzsche? You bet, the authors in

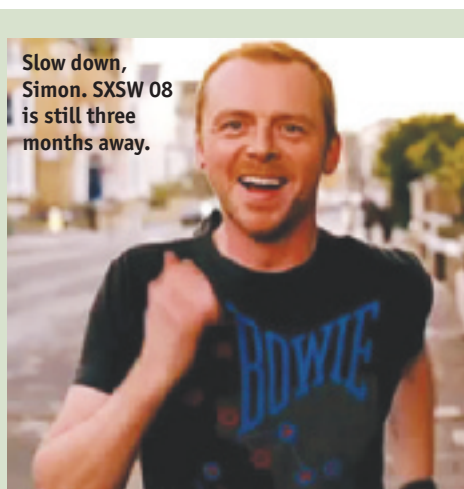
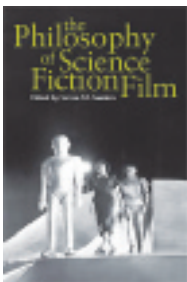
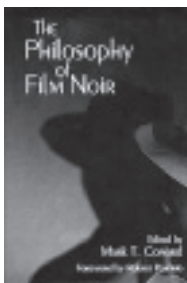
this essay collection contend, as they duke out such ideas as reason vs. passion (how much does Sam Spade hurt inside?) and morality vs. tragedy. It’s the sort of glorious, endless debate that the cineaste is clamoring for at a coffee bar near you. Plus, it’s a lot of fun. Consider the story of Edgar G. Ulmer, the

German immigrant who was cast out of Universal in the Thirties after having an affair with the wife of studio head Carl Laemmle’s nephew and blackballed from then on. For less than \$20,000 he made 1945’s *Detour*, about a man bathing in the evil tide of fate as he hitchhikes to reconnect with the woman he loves, who has herself vamoosed to the fabled California. Is the film Ulmer’s statement about the failed American dream? Does it echo the hazily Marxist Frankfurt school of philosophy? Does this have you grabbing for another latte? This is the book for you, filmic friend.

It’s part of the Philosophy of Popular Culture series from the University Press of Kentucky, which also includes recent release *The Philosophy of Science Fiction Film*.

The latter contends that science fiction is the only film genre truly centered on the question of what it means to be a human being. Covering a much broader time frame, the book is organized less by ideas than by discussion of particular films ranging from *Metropolis* to *The Matrix*. The two books meet over *Blade Runner*, which is described as a “future noir.” The burning question: Is Rick Deckard human or replicant? Grab a fresh cup of coffee. Discuss.

– Joe O’Connell



SNEAK PEEK AT SXSW FILM 2008

The South by Southwest Film Festival is waiting till the new year – Jan. 2, to be exact – to announce its 2008 opening-night film and other premieres/special guests/the like, but a little birdie slipped us the details on three titles showing: David Schwimmer’s feature directorial debut, *Run, Fatboy, Run*, starring *Hot Fuzz*’s **Simon Pegg** (who co-wrote the script with *Stella*’s **Michael Ian Black**); *Flawless*, a heist picture with **Demi Moore** and **Michael Caine**; and *Wild Blue Yonder*, Celia Maysles’ controversial doc about her father and uncle, documentary giants the **Maysles brothers**. These three are in addition to the news broke in last week’s issue by the cubicle around the corner, “Off the Record,” that *Lou Reed’s Berlin*, a concert doc staged and directed by **Julian Schnabel**, will screen in conjunction with **Lou Reed**’s SXSW Music keynote address.

– Kimberley Jones

FILM NEWS

BY JOE O’CONNELL

AUSTIN GETS PITT, DALLAS DUMPS TRAVOLTA, DENZEL PAYS UP

Ready for a thick slice of post-Christmas celeb gossip, Texas-style? As we told you way back in September, **Terrence Malick** is planning a spring shoot hereabouts of *Tree of Life*, his long-gestating project with **Sean Penn** in the cast. What we didn’t tell you is **Brad Pitt**, according to *Variety*, is in talks to replace **Heath Ledger**. Meanwhile, **John Travolta** is no longer attached to the big-screen version of TV’s *Dallas*, which may or may not shoot in Big D. It gets weirder. *New York Post*’s “Page Six” column says the film, years in the planning, is now going from drama to kitschy comedy. And in East Texas, **Denzel Washington** left a \$1 million tip after a premiere screening of his *The Great Debaters* at Marshall’s Wiley College, which was the real-life backdrop for the debate team featured in the movie. Washington’s bucks will go to revive the school’s debate team.

REMAKE IT, AND THEY WILL COME

The Alamo Drafthouse’s latest side project is aimed at you, the goofy wannabe filmmaker. It’s **FilmmakingFrenzy.com**, a website devoted to the wackiest filmmaking contests the Alamo can conjure. First up is Rewind Kindly, inspired by the **Michel Gondry**’s film *Be Kind Rewind*, which opens Jan. 25 and features **Jack Black** as a guy who accidentally erases every movie at a local video store and attempts to reconstruct them by acting them out. In that vein, contest teams will have until Jan. 18 to complete an up-to-five-minute, homemade, low-budget remake of a popular Hollywood film. I’m envisioning either *Being There* with Chance the gardener strolling down South Congress or perhaps *Fargo* done with Claymation, but a *Star Wars* remake is a safer bet. Entries will screen at the Alamo.

AND THE REST ...

Count director **Richard Linklater**, actor **Luke Wilson**, and **Zadi Diaz**, creator of the Web series EPIC-FU, among judges for the **Greenlight Awards** honoring the best online episodic series. The awards are sponsored by ON Networks and South by Southwest Film. More at www.greenlightawards.com... **Alina Fernández Revuelta**, daughter of Cuban leader **Fidel Castro**, has signed a deal with Austin-based **Artists Relations Group** to tell her life story on the big screen... **Villa Muse Studios** is taking a step toward its planned 2008 groundbreaking with the hiring of **Barry Bongiovi** to manage the recording complex and **Ed Evans** as technical director. The plan is for a production and postproduction facility for film, television, game development, animation, advertising, video, and restoration... Disney Channel fans may not know that **As the Bell Rings**, a series of two- to five-minute sitcom shorts set outside a principal’s office and airing on the network, was shot at Del Valle High School... Visual effects pro **Eric Pham** of Austin has optioned a script titled *Kid Spaghetti* with plans to produce, according to InkTip.com... **Reel Women** has its First Monday Mix schmooze fest from 6 to 8pm, Jan. 7, at Opal Divine’s upstairs balcony Downtown... Go ahead. Wish me a happy birthday today. It’s what all the cool kids are doing.

Send tips to filmnews@austinchronicle.com.



Dolores del Río



Lupe Vélez



Katy Jurado

Border Crossing

AFS Essential Cinema presents 3 Mexicanas en Hollywood

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

Long before there were Salma, J.Lo, and Adriana, there were Dolores, Lupe, and Katy. Okay, maybe J.Lo, with her up-and-down acting career, doesn't quite fit in there, and for those who've already forgotten, Adriana Barraza is the Oscar-nominated Mexican actress who starred in *Babel*. But if you're a student of Mexican cinema, the last three women need no last name (for the record, it's del Río, Vélez, and Jurado). Their work is the theme of the next Essential Cinema series hosted by the Austin Film Society, starting Jan. 8. While it seems a shame to limit the roster to these three actresses, there's a reason: They are the three most visible Mexican actresses who built successful careers in Mexico and in Hollywood, navigating cultures, challenging stereotypes, and becoming icons on both sides of the border.

Interestingly, del Río and Vélez launched their careers in U.S. silent films. Del Río eventually spent most of her time making Mexican

films. Jurado successfully split her time in both countries, while Vélez only made two Mexican films, later working around the world as well as in Hollywood. While del Río and Jurado had long careers, Vélez's early death (by suicide) abbreviated her career. So it's a treat to see Vélez's first feature film in the series, 1927's *The Gaucho*, starring the legendary Douglas Fairbanks. It's almost impossible to take your eyes off the charming and agile Fairbanks (here, playing a wily leader of a band of bandits), but Vélez absolutely sparkles, matching him, frame for frame, with her own commanding screen presence. The first of Vélez's two Mexican films, 1938's *La Zandunga*, is also featured. In this, she stars as a beautiful young woman torn between tradition and love. Most of the film focuses on the antics of Vélez's male suitors and the village power brokers, as the women flutter and gossip. Yet, the film's gaze at the Tehuantepecan regional dress, music, and architecture is lovely, without being too pastoral or, as is most often the case, broad and gaudy.

The same could be said of Roberto Gavaldón's *Deseada*, which stars del Río. In this film, the luminous del Río plays a woman preparing her sister for an arranged marriage but ends up falling in love with the handsome fiancé. Gavaldón delights in filling the screen with del Río's expressive face. The only thing that matches del Río's presence is the majestic Chichén Itzá vistas that serve as the film's backdrop.

The most recently deceased of the three featured actresses in the series is the divine Jurado. Among Mexican-American women of a certain age, Jurado's Golden Globe Award-winning performance as Helen Ramírez in *High Noon* (1952) is legendary. Her iron backbone is what makes her fans go, "Oh, snap," but it's her heartbreaking vulnerability that makes her embraceable.

Class, race, and gender matters permeate the narratives of several of the six films in the series, but it's the actresses who command the attention. Often pigeonholed to types – Vélez as the "Mexican spitfire," del Río as the dignified "good woman," and Jurado as the sexually charged "hot Latina" – the three always brought just enough variation and nuance to make audiences question their assumptions. After all these years, del Río, Vélez, and Jurado still delight.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

The Agrasánchez Film Archives

Two of the films playing in 3 Mexicanas en Hollywood (*Deseada* and *La Zandunga*) and the gorgeous images you see above come care of a very special outfit based in Harlingen called the Agrasánchez Film Archives. It was a labor of love begun by Rogelio Agrasánchez Sr., a film producer in Mexico in the Seventies and Eighties; AFS hosted a program in 2005 of several films – wrestlers and mummies and the border patrol, oh my! – from Agrasánchez's long and varied career (see "Sleaze, Camp, and Social Justice," by Rachel Proctor May, March 11, 2005).

Curatorial work is now carried on by his son, Rogelio Agrasánchez Jr., who tends to a collection of films (numbering 750) and poster art that spans 60 years of Mexican cinema. Agrasánchez Jr. also authors studies on *el cine Mexicano*, including one co-written with University of Texas professor Charles Ramírez Berg titled, natch, *Cine Mexicano: Posters From the Golden Age 1936-1956*. Film art, including posters, stills, and lobby cards, as well as Agrasánchez Jr.'s books, can be purchased from his website at www.mexfilmarchive.com; a full-color catalog of available merchandise can be purchased for \$10.

– Kimberley Jones



3 MEXICANAS EN HOLLYWOOD DOLORES DEL RÍO, LUPE VÉLEZ, & KATY JURADO

All films screen 7pm on Tuesdays at the Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz. Screenings are free for AFS members and \$4 for nonmembers. For more information, visit www.austinfilm.org.

Dolores del Río

Jan. 8: *Evangeline*
(D: Edwin Carewe, 1929)
Jan. 15: *Deseada*
(D: Roberto Gavaldón, 1951)

Lupe Vélez

Jan. 22: *The Gaucho*
(D: F. Richard Jones, 1927)
Jan. 29: *La Zandunga*
(D: Fernando de Fuentes, 1938)

Katy Jurado

Feb. 5: *El Bruto*
(D: Luis Buñuel, 1953)
Feb. 12: *High Noon*
(D: Fred Zinnemann, 1952)

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'Tis the season for TV marathons, including RetroPlex's *Pink Panther* block, which airs Dec. 30-31.

Marathon Viewing

BY BELINDA ACOSTA

'Tis the season! Oh sure, it's all bright and shiny at first, but right now all you really want to do is zone out, right? Since there isn't much to see on network TV (reruns, low-rent reality shows, crap) the best way to accomplish this is by surfing through cable and taking in one of the many marathons the cable networks have concocted for post-Christmas viewing. This is not a new programming strategy, but it seems to have blossomed this year. Here are a few of the notable marathons to coddle your inner slug.

For day slugs: A countdown of the **100 Greatest TV Characters** runs in hourlong installments from 1 to 4pm on Friday, Dec. 28, on Bravo.

The Food Network will air back-to-back, hourlong *Chefography*s of their most popular chefs. The inimitable **Paula Deen** is featured first, followed by grill boy **Bobby Flay**, cake doctor **Sandra Lee**, and the network's loud-

est host after **Emeril Lagasse**, **Rachael Ray**. "What, no Emeril?" you ask. Well, it seems Emeril is on his way out. He recently finished taping his last episode, and a new contract has not been signed. No hard feelings, it seems. Just time to move on. The Food Network *Chefography*s start at 1pm on Saturday, Dec. 29.

I don't understand the appeal of **Myth-Busters** on Discovery, but viewers seem to love it. Catch the "best of" episodes of the series on Monday, Dec. 31, from 9am to 2am.

For night slugs: HBO runs an *Entourage* marathon starting at 6pm on New Year's Eve. An hourlong break occurs at 11pm to air *Cathouse: The Musical*. For the uninitiated, the *Cathouse* series takes viewers inside the Moonlite Bunny Ranch for an insider look at what happens in a legal brothel (it's located outside Vegas, baby). Anything goes at the Bunny Ranch, so what else is left to

do but break into song and dance? *Forbidden Broadway* director Fred Barton whips the girls (so to speak) into shape. Then it's back to *Entourage* into the wee hours of the morning.

Starz spin-off network RetroPlex, which features films from the Fifties, Sixties, and Seventies, features a **Pink Panther** marathon on Dec. 30. First up is *The Pink Panther* at 11pm, followed by *A Shot in the Dark*, *The Return of the Pink Panther*, *Inspector Clouseau*, *Trail of the Pink Panther*, and *Revenge of the Pink Panther*. If you didn't laugh hard enough the first time, you can watch the marathon again starting at 9:45am on Dec. 31. Check local listings for specific airtimes.

For laughs with a saw-toothed edge, tune in to this stand-up comedy block on Showtime on (you guessed it) New Year's Eve. First up, *Mo'Nique: I Coulda Been Your Cellmate* at 10pm. The queen of sass takes her act to a women's prison and lives to tell about it – or maybe it's the other way around. Following Mo'Nique is **Paul Mooney: Jesus Is Black – So Was Cleopatra – Know Your History**. The "cruel and unusual" **Doug Stanhope: No Refunds** follows. Next up is **Joe Rogan: Live**. Closing the evening is **Richard Pryor Live on the Sunset Strip**. Just when you thought it was over, you might stick around for *When Stand Up Stood Out*. The award-winning documentary feature covers what is known as the "Boston Gold Rush," when a league of hard-edged social commentators and comedians hit the Beantown scene in the late 1970s. **Denis Leary**, **Steven Wright**, **Colin Quinn**, **Janeane Garofalo**, and others are featured. Check local listings.

On the local front, **ME Television** will announce the winners of the first annual ME

Television Viewer's Choice Awards on New Year's Eve at 9am and 9pm (during **Tex-Mix!**). Categories include Best Austin Video, Best ME Live!, and Best Studio Performance. More than 200,000 viewers voted online for the winners. Nominees include **Girl in a Coma**, **Joe Ely** with **Reckless Kelly**, **Jumbo**, **Gary Clark Jr.**, and many others. ME Television airs on cable Channel 15.

Mark Your Calendar

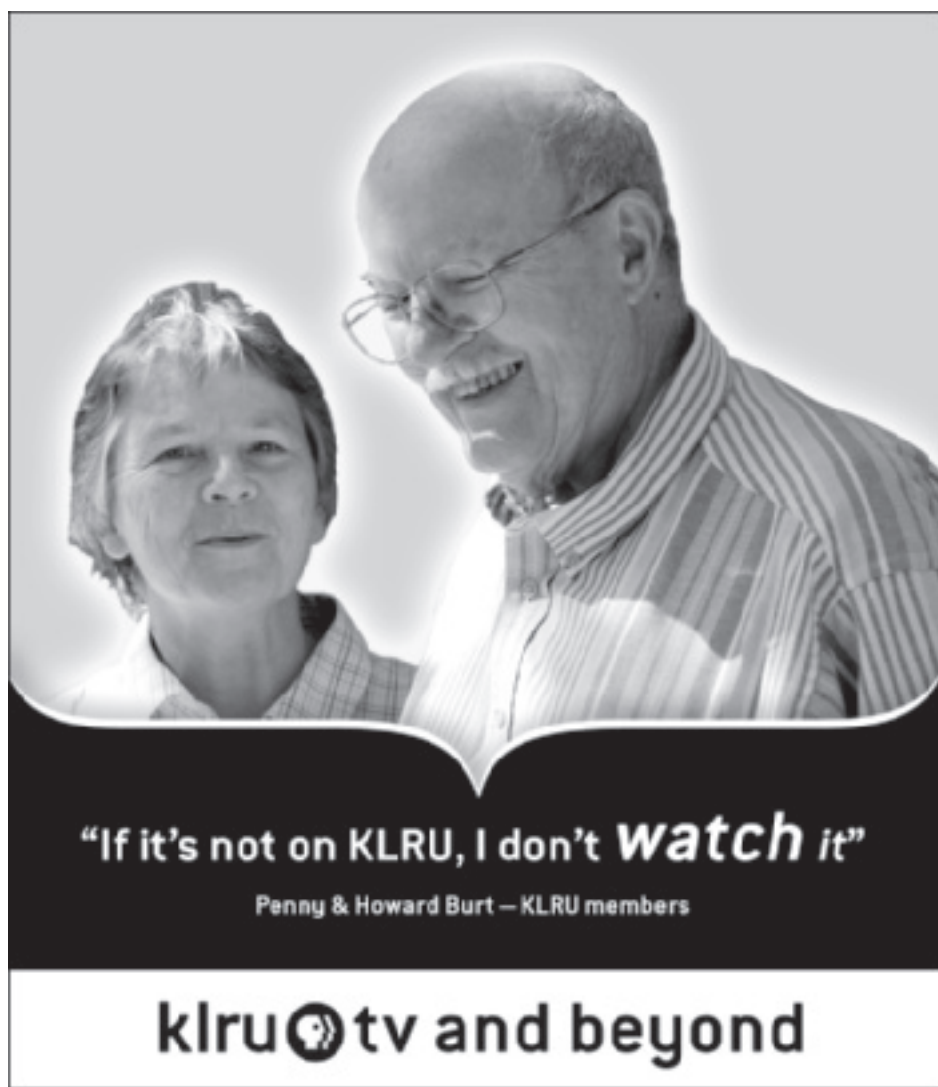
The fifth and final season of *The Wire* premieres Sunday, Jan. 6, at 8pm on HBO. The final 10 episodes will reflect on the "media's role in addressing – or failing to address – the fundamental political, economic, and social realities depicted over the course of the series."

WGA Strike Update

Soon after the last "TV Eye" went to press, the Writers Guild of America announced it would not offer waivers for writers to participate in the Golden Globes or the Academy Awards (the latter scheduled for February). This is widely considered a blow, as the award shows are considered "the Switzerland of the industry." The WGA *did* grant a waiver to the Independent Spirit Awards, to be hosted (and co-written) by guild member **Rainn Wilson** (*The Office*). As for the effort by **Worldwide Pants** to broker a waiver to allow writers to go back to work on the *Late Show With David Letterman* and *The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson*, no news at press time.

As always, stay tuned.

E-mail Belinda Acosta at tveye@austinchronicle.com.



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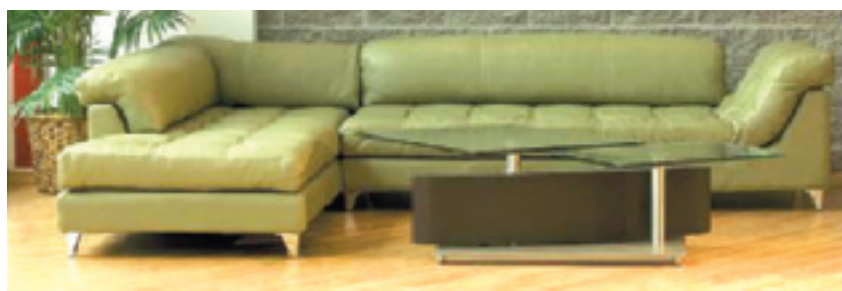


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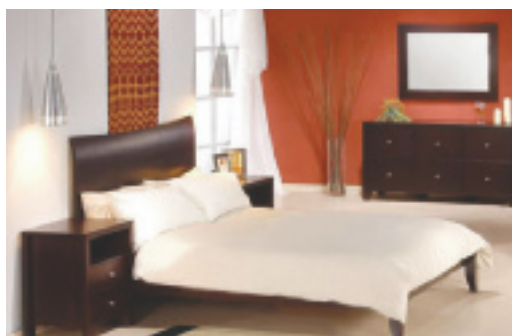
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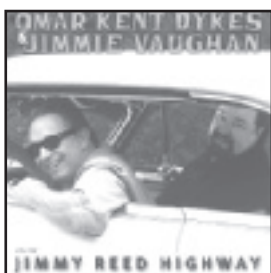
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Omar & the Howlers • Jimmie Vaughan • Trans Am

Attack Formation • Andy Palacio & Aurelio Martinez

Asleep at the Wheel • The High Strung • Jimmy LaFave

Future Clouds & Radar • Frog Eyes • Bruce Robison

Priestbird • **Voxtro** • Martin Sexton • Bill Callahan

Strange Fruit Project & Lifesavas • Abra Moore

John Butler Trio • Menomena • Kelly Willis • Burning Brides

Li'l Cap'n Travis • The Gourds

John Doe • Raul Malo

Spoon • Tia Carrera • Belaire

Rachel Loy • Page France

The Derailers • Ian Moore

Eisley • Jennifer Gentle

Okkervil River • Terri Hendrix

Jesse Harris & Ethan Hawke

Patricia Vonne • Jenny Hoyston • Oliver Future • Josh Rouse

Amplified Heat • Doyle Bramhall • Black Lips • Steve Forbert

Charlie Louvin • Bedouin Soundclash • The Warlocks

Magnet School • Redwalls • Mute Math • Alex Jones • Dog Day



2006 ACL FESTIVAL SIGNINGS

Jesse Malin • Joseph Aurther

The Heartless Bastards • M.I.A.

Pete Yorn • Amy Laverne

The Dynamites • Blonde Redhead

Kaiser Chiefs • Manchester Orchestra

Joss Stone • JJ Grey & Mofro

Willy Mason • Young Love

Back Door Slam • Dax Riggs • Raul Malo • Paolo Nutini

Railroad Earth • Cold War Kids • Kelly Willis • Steve Earle

Andrew Bird • Zap Mama • Nicole Atkins • The Little Ones

Fionn Regan • Yo La Tengo • Ryan Shaw • Soundtribe Sector 9

The National • The Broken West • Robert Earl Keen • Regina

Spektor • The Decemberists • Midlake • Eli Young Band

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music

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OFF THE RECORD music news

BY AUSTIN POWELL

In the “Indie Rock Universe,” as illustrated by **Rolling Stone** in its Nov. 15 issue and enclosed in four pages of **Camel** cigarette advertisements, **Ghostland Observatory** and **White Denim** inhabit “Spazmodica,” where “interstellar weirdos fly high.” Other capital city acts sprinkled throughout the controversial, **Douglas Adams**-inspired foldout include **Explosions in the Sky**, the **Octopus Project**, **Iron & Wine**, and **Spoon**, now part of the “Northwesterners.” Last week, on behalf of the 186 entities name-dropped in the display, **Xiu Xiu** and Canadian noise patrol **Fucked Up** filed a class-action lawsuit against **Rolling Stone**’s parent company, **Wenner Media**, and Camel’s **R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.** for the allegedly inadvertent, unsolicited association with the tobacco company. None of the local bands has thus far expressed interest in joining the suit.

While the relationship between indie rock and Big Tobacco may seem paradoxical, it was par for the course in 2007 as major corporations from **Taco Bell** and **Wendy’s** to **Greyhound Lines** and **Scion** increasingly used alt-rock artists (occasionally without permission) as a way to tap into a younger audience. Cases in point were the unofficial day parties during the **South by Southwest Music Festival** in March, which played out like an experiment in multimedia, blitzkrieg promotion. A few months later, the sponsor-driven, free **Ozzfest** tour rolled into the **Verizon Wireless Amphitheater**. **Toyota Yaris** and **Levi’s** brought the **Ice Cream Man** back to September’s **Austin City Limits Music Festival**, while **Dell Lounge** hosted both a stage and the **Sound and the Jury** competition.

Ironically, Camel’s the **Farm** – not to be confused with **BFG Communications**, the advertising firm hired by Camel to promote the **Flaming Lips**’ smokescreen extravaganza at **La Zona Rosa** – did more to support homegrown music this past year than most would care to admit. The organization helped sponsor **Beerland**’s inaugural **Ground Zero Texas** garage-punk festival last month, not to mention countless other shows, both national (last weekend’s double bill of the **Walkmen** and **These Arms Are Snakes** at **Emo’s**) and local (the **Golden Boys**, the **Laughing** at **Mohawk**). In the short term at least, everybody wins: There’s no cover, the bands get paid well, the venues cash in at the bar, and those seeking free smokes can conveniently sign their life away to the death merchants.

The point is that the paradigm shift into the Digital Age has forced every aspect of the music industry to adapt or face extinction. All the rules have changed, and everyone is experimenting with new revenue streams. **Radiohead** sent shock waves through the biz with its pay-what-you-will self-release of *In Rainbows* online in October, and **Beck** recently became the first artist nominated for a **Grammy** for an **iTunes**-

ANNIVERSARIES

Crystal (15): **Emo’s**, **Flipnotics**
China (20): **Antone’s Record Shop**, **Old Settler’s Music Festival**
Silver (25): **Waterloo Records**
Pearl (30): **Frank Erwin Center**

THE DEPARTED (TEXANS)

Carter Albrecht
Chad Butler (aka Pimp C)
Mikey Donaldson
Gerry “Phareaux” Felton
Lance Hahn
Obatallah Hayter
Lee Hazlewood
Cindi Lazzari
Michael Malone
Lydia Mendoza
Damon O’Banion
Wes Pascoe
Gary Primich
Byron Scott
Hank Thompson
Uncle John Turner

TELL TCHAIKOVSKY THE NEWS

Opened: **Monarch Event Center**
Renovated: Austin Music Hall,
Mohawk, Club de Ville
Relocated: **Snake Eyes Vinyl**
Closed: **Redrum**, the **Shack**
Expanded: **Scoot Inn** and **Bier Garten**,
End of an Ear, Fun Fun Fun Fest
Disbanded: **Sound Team**,
the **Weary Boys**, **Clap! Clap!**

only single, “Timebomb.” Marquee artists like **Joni Mitchell** and **Paul McCartney** gravitated toward distribution networks with built-in audiences (**Starbucks’ Hear Music**), whereas the **Eagles** released its disappointing double album, *Long Road out of Eden*, exclusively (and fittingly) through **Wal-Mart**. Then there’s **RCDR LBL**, a new ad-generated, online-only division of **Downtown Records** (and home to **White Denim**) that’s primarily emphasizing music publishing and licensing agreements.

Led by **Madonna**’s all-encompassing, blockbuster deal with touring behemoth **Live Nation**, major companies are now emphasizing “360 deals,” essentially transforming bands into brands and sharing revenue generated from concert sales and merchandise to account for downturns in CD sales and the leveling off of growth seen in digital downloads. This trend toward consolidation best surmises the most notable local development of the past year: the June formation of **Transmission Entertainment**. The booking and event-production venture, comprising former **Emo’s** head talent buyer **Graham Williams**, **Mohawk** owner **James Moody**, **Club de Ville** owner **Michael Terrazas**, and **Super!Alright!**’s **Chris Butler**, garnered immediate prominence thanks in part to its phenomenal two-day **Fun Fun Fun Fest** in **Waterloo Park**. **C3 Presents**, which introduced the **Big State Festival** to College Station this year along with plans for the



White Denim
at Fun Fun
Fun Fest '07

SCOTT NEWTON



Roky Erickson tapes
Austin City Limits

SANDY CARSON

Spoon-men Jim Eno
(l) and Britt Daniel
at the ACL Music
Fest 2007



JOHN ANDERSON



The Transmission
brain trust

Vineland Music Festival, in turn took over national booking duties at **Emo’s**. **Direct Events**’ newly renovated **Austin Music Hall** only exacerbates the behind-the-scenes power struggle for talent playing the capital city.

Even the landscape is experiencing a period of drastic change. Last Thursday, **Broken Spoke** announced that **Ardent Residential** and **Direct Development** purchased its 7-acre lot on South Lamar, which will be developed into apartments and retail outlets around the historic honky-tonk. The **Block 21** complex (and future home of **Austin City Limits**) broke ground in October, and bottle-service nightclubs are beginning to spread like crabs. The construction of **Red River Flats**, a four-story, 124-unit condominium complex next to **Stubb’s**, meanwhile, casts an ominous shadow over the entire **Red River Street Entertainment Area** as debate over amendments to the current sound ordinance continues to heat up.

All that said, it was a pretty amazing year for local music. Aside from the obvious efforts by those in **Rolling Stone**’s “Indie Rock Universe,” **Oskerville River** penned its sharpest pop album

to date; offshoot **Shearwater** received deluxe reissue treatment courtesy of **Matador**. **Prince** rolled out the red carpet for **Grupo Fantasma**, who held down a residency at **Club 3121** and recorded a **BBC Radio session**, while the group’s instrumental side project **Brownout** delivered the sleeper hit of the year with *Homenaje*. **Roky Erickson** cemented his epic comeback saga on a rapturous *Austin City Limits* taping with **ZZ Top**’s **Billy Gibbons**. The **Black Angels** descended upon the festival circuit and toured with **Queens of the Stone Age**. **Voxtro** dropped its highly anticipated full-length debut on **Playlouder**. Smaller acts like the **Lovely Sparrows**, **Peter & the Wolf**, and **Sparrow House** all helmed **Daytrotter** sessions, and indie imprint **Dead Oceans** surfaced with four momentous albums.

Taken as a whole, the Austin music scene seems to be finally creating a new identity for itself in the 21st century, independent of its storied legacy as a cosmic cowboy and blues mecca and City Council’s unofficial calling card, “live music capital of the world.” Perhaps “Spazmodica” isn’t too far off after all.

A Browner Shade of Black

Blazing trails of Chicano soul



San Antonio Soul: Reggie Lymon's Elk-Hearts, 1958, featuring 16-year-old drummer Ernie Durawa

BY MARGARET MOSER

At 12:06am, *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* explodes onto the air of local ABC affiliate KVUE. Punching the theme for the late-night talk show are the twin saxophones of father-and-son duo Cleto Escobedo Jr. and bandleader Cleto Escobedo III. Most biographies note that Cleto Escobedo Jr. lives in L.A. and played with Los Blues in Las Vegas. That's half the story.

Cleto Escobedo Jr. is a native player/charter member of San Antonio's elite Westside players, along with Frank Rodarte, the late Rocky Morales, and many others. Their sweet blend of reeds and brass, drawn from traditional Mexican genres and tempered with a love of rock & roll, blues, and jazz, gave a distinctive sound to the San Antonio bands of the early 1960s.

These were largely teenage players from the various Westside and Southside high schools with group monikers like the Royal Jesters, the Lyrics, the Dell-Kings, and the Sunglows. In their quest, they created a unique blend of music echoed in Dallas and South Texas, East Los Angeles, Phoenix, Albuquerque, and as far north as Saginaw, Mich.

What started in the barrios and Latino neighborhoods as an imitation of combo-based R&B acts and soul show bands was immediately supplanted by the real thing. In

L.A., Ritchie Valens' career ended in tragedy, but Danny Flores (aka Chuck Rio) had a hit with his Champs' "Tequila," and Sunny & the Sunglows charted in 1963 with "Talk to Me." By the mid-1960s, garage rock hits like "96 Tears" by ? & the Mysterians, "Woolly Bully" by Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs, "She's About a Mover" by the Sir Douglas Quintet, and "Land of 1000 Dances" by Cannibal & the Headhunters shaped national radio. In San Antonio, the Royal Jesters and Rudy T. & the Reno Bops kept the beat, as did Rene & Rene, who had regional success with the bilingual "Lo Mucho Que Te Quiero."

What started in the barrios and Latino neighborhoods as an imitation of combo-based R&B acts and soul show bands was immediately supplanted by the real thing.

Dubbed Chicano soul, it became the most potent music mix to draw from black, white, and brown cultures. It also turned into the largest puzzle piece missing from history books about rock & roll. And it's 100% American, asserts Ruben Molina, author of the recently published *Chicano Soul: Recordings & History of an American Culture*, like a Southwest American Graffiti in glowing shades of bronze, copper, and gold. As with most hybrid music, it sought

its own level, hunkered down, and blended in so thoroughly that it's in your face nightly, and you don't know it.

Corazón and Chicano Soul

Chicano Soul by Ruben Molina, a Los Angeles record collector and author of 2002's *The Old Barrio Guide to Low Rider Music 1950-1975*, is nada if not revelatory. It's 160 pages of lovingly researched text and glossy color and black-and-white photos rarely seen outside collections, but its politics are what counts: Molina

seeks acknowledgment of this under-the-radar genre. With this book, he'll get it.

By linking the trail of Chicano soul bands to the route of the Mexican-American migrant workers across the United States as well as the migration of south-of-the-border families into Texas after the Mexican Revolution, the author presents a compelling account of rock & roll heroes literally unsung. Molina makes a case for teenagers who took their parents'

musical traditions, the trappings of black R&B bands with pop sensibilities, and channeled them into a vibrant sound that helped define the culture it sprang from. And in going back to the music's roots, he presents it to a generation ready to wear that solid-gold crown once again.

Molina begins making his case by choosing the word "Chicano," a politically and culturally loaded term from the 1970s that sounds dated today. Yet in Molina's hands, the word gleams anew, taking its place alongside the other descriptors of Latino subcultures: *pachuco*, *cholo*, *vato*. Some of this encapsulates physical style — clothing and hairstyles, the lowriders — but mostly it's pride in the face of prejudice.

"There was a time when 'Chicano' was a term not well taken, even among the Mexican community," contends Molina. "People wanted to be American or they wanted to be Mexican. In the Sixties, it became, 'Hey, we're in the middle! We're either/or. We can't go to Mexico and be Mexicans, because we can't speak Spanish like they do.'

"Chicano says, 'This is who we are.'

"In Texas, the term encompassed everything, the political scene, your life. In California, it was political, but more of a statement. So, when you talk to people in Texas and they talk about Chicano music, they're mostly talking about Spanish [music]. In California when you're talking about Chicano music, you're talking about Carlos Santana, the San Francisco hippie thing. You're rarely talking about it as Spanish-language music, whereas in Texas, the Chicano scene is Tex-Mex."

Ah, Tex-Mex! That's a more familiar description, one that evokes Doug Sahm, the Texas Tornados, and San Antonio's Randy Garibay & Cats Don't Sleep. Molina speaks as a Southern Californian with a clear view of the Lone Star State since he found the primary centers of Chicano soul in East L.A. and San Antonio. The distinctions are clear, however.

"I consider [San Antonio's] 'Westside Sound' to be much more soulful than in Los Angeles," he admits. "The Southern influence was greater, and it seemed easier for kids to be able to get into the clubs and bars that were part of the Chitlin Circuit."

Pairing the word "Chicano" with soul, he explains, is "to separate it, give it its own identity. Is it Spanish, or is it English? I wanted to take people back to how the music developed. I think the first time Chicano was used in a song was in 1948 with Don Tosti, sung in English and caló — not real Spanish but pachuco talk, spoken in San Antonio, El Paso, and Los Angeles. It's real cool rhythm & blues-based music with caló lyrics."

"Ruben Molina went to such care to put this together — the record labels, the album covers, the posters," points out Rose Reyes, director of music and marketing for the Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau. "He's a hero to our culture as a scholar and a historian. It's so important he brought it back. Let's honor the bands that are still around."

There's little to quibble with in the book besides spelling errors, because Molina waded into waters so uncharted that almost every point he makes is merely a jumping-off point for further discussion. He missteps in a few places, yet he reins in his subject tightly and

keeps the writing on track. The lack of an index for such a crucial history book hurts, but that's somewhat forgivable given the impressive discography.

'Honky Tonk'

The golden age of Chicano soul ran from about 1958 to 1973, a glorious example of independent consciousness within an ethnic subculture. Its beginnings in East L.A. are traced in the 1940s to recordings by Lalo Guerrero, who crossbred boogie-woogie and swing jazz with rancheras sung in caló, and Don Tosti & the Pachuco Boogie Boys, whose "Pachuco Boogie" was a million-seller in 1948.

By 1956, acts such as the Jaguars and Li'l Julian were pulling together the East L.A. sound; Terri & the Velveteens, the Perez Brothers, and Rosie & the Originals followed. The Champs chased "Tequila" all the way to No. 1 in 1958, and by the end of the year, Ritchie Valens had both "Donna" and "La Bamba" in the can. His death on Feb. 3, 1959, left a void in the youthful scene, but it also birthed a growing audience that wanted more of this vibrant music in the following decade.

San Antonio's equivalent scene in the mid-1950s shifted into gear when Johnnie Phillips opened the Eastwood Country Club, which immediately parked itself as a hot spot on the Chitlin Circuit. Little Richard, Bo Diddley, Fats Domino, Ike & Tina Turner all played there, as did locals Spot Barnett, Fats Martin, Curly Mays, and Shake Snyder plus favorites like Clifford Scott, who'd played on David Doggett's anthemic "Honky Tonk."

The way Austinite and Texas Tornado drummer Ernie Durawa recalls, "All of us Chicanos from the Westside spent our time on the Eastside, because it was the black part of town, and everyone wanted to be in Spot Barnett's band. He was the king of the Eastside, one of our mentors. That's where the groove was, the soul, and that's what we wanted."

"[Later], Doug and I were sidemen in Spot's band, but the rest were black. We played the all-black Ebony Club, and there was a disc jockey named Joe Anthony, a white guy who'd spin records, then we'd play. In San Antonio, they didn't care what color you were as long as you could play 'Honky Tonk.'"

Cleto Escobedo Jr. also idolized "Honky Tonk" sax soloist Clifford Scott.

"I used to sneak into the Eastwood Country Club," he recalls today. "We'd go see Bill Doggett and Clifford, who was my hero. In our

dressing room on *Jimmy Kimmel*, I have his picture there. That's how much I loved him. He had that Texas sound everyone talks about."

That "Texas sound" is the blues-based "Southern sound" Molina refers to. East L.A. certainly had its share of black influence and some of it by way of the Lone Star State. Chicanos arriving in Southern California from Texas were delighted to hear the likes of Johnny Ace, T-Bone Walker, Pee Wee Crayton, and Johnny "Guitar" Watson perform at the 54 Ballroom, the Barrelhouse, and the Angelus Ballroom. Spread between the two nexuses, R&B thus became part of the Chicano identification, Molina contends. A browner shade of black, if you will.

Little Roger Gonzalez's experience as vocalist for S.A.'s Rhythm Kings gave him a visceral view about melding cultures in *Chicano Soul*: "When you walk into an all-black club with eight black musicians and you're the only Chicano, then someone asks, 'Where's the singer?' and the band points at you, you better be able to sell that music."

Eastside vs. Westside

As with so many musical genres, the 1960s were Chicano soul's golden age. If San Antonio's acts were more heavily influenced by regional R&B, East L.A.'s bands took on a twangy sound that reflected the rise of surf music in Southern California. Out there, it wasn't unusual to find bands such as the Riptides sharing the stage with Los Dinos, much like Ernie Durawa sought out Spot Barnett in San Antonio.

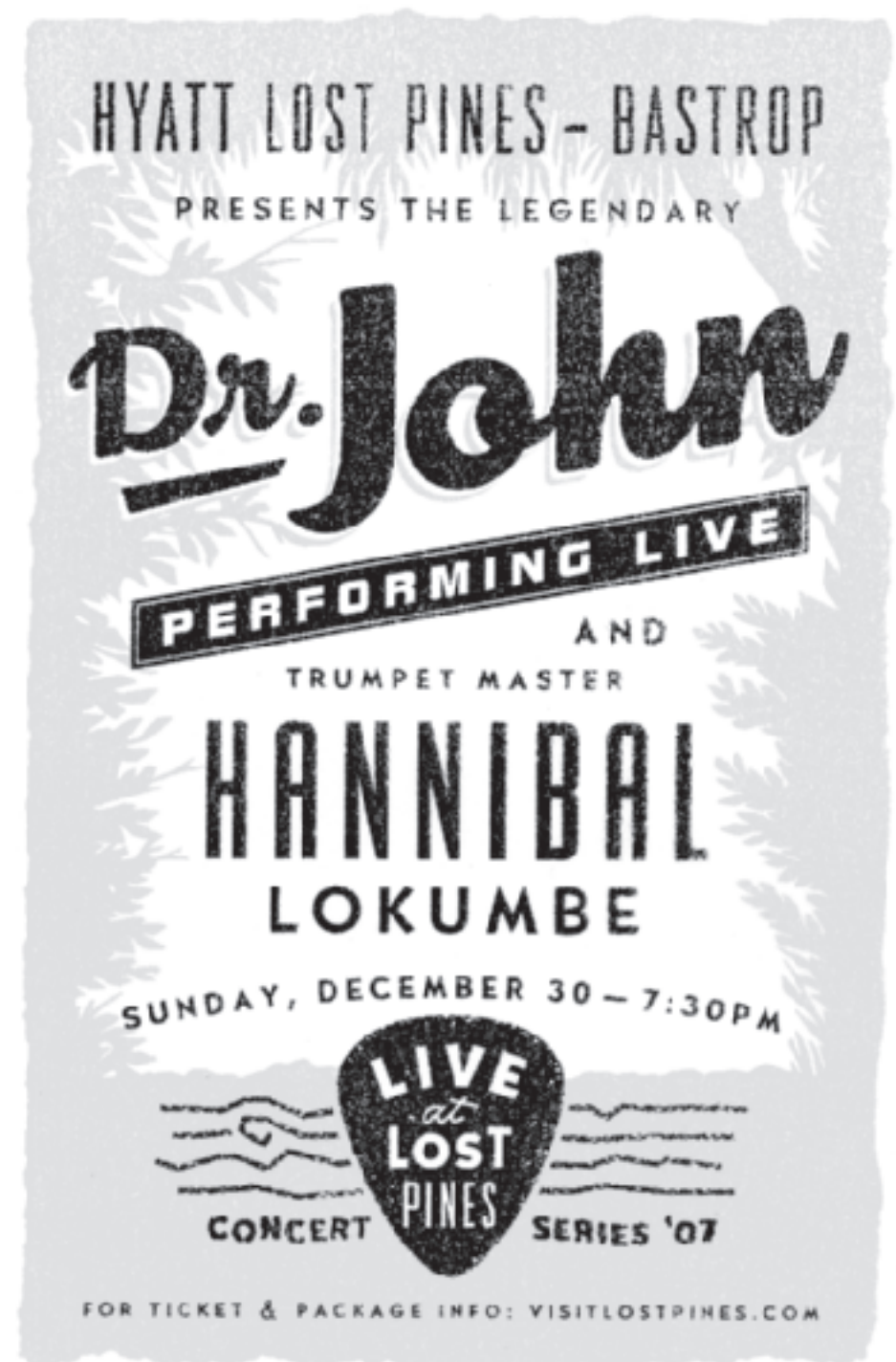
The vocal harmonies of doo-wop groups of the day had pronounced influence on San Antonio's burgeoning Chicano soul acts toward the end of the 1950s. Local vocal groups such as the integrated Lyrics, with Dimas Garza and Carl Henderson, led the way as did the Royal Jesters and full bands like Sunny & the Sunflows, Sonny Ace & the Twisters, Rudy Tee & the Reno Bops, and Little Joe & the Harlems. Their very names evoke the R&B bands. The step from *trios románticos* to doo-wop groups requires no effort.

The Lyrics' 1959 single "The Girl I Love" achieved regional success and became one of the city's favorites just as a velvet voice from the Valley named Baldemar Huerta was also developing a following. He wasn't yet known as Freddy Fender, but he sold more than a quarter-million copies of his single "Holy One," aka "Only One."

continued on p.56



Chicano Soul by Ruben Molina, a Los Angeles record collector and author of 2002's *The Old Barrio Guide to Low Rider Music 1950-1975*, is nada if not revelatory.





“Talk to Me,” meanwhile, could well be the theme song of Texas Chicano soul. San Antonio’s pride of Burbank High School, Sunny & the Sunglows was the first group from the city to break nationally, charting at No. 11 in 1963 with Little Willie John’s “Talk to Me.” Their television appearance on *American Bandstand* gave the country its first look at an all-Mexican-American band. The swaying beat made for clutching couples

is punctuated by a sweetheart’s affirmation sung in the key of love. “Talk to me, in your own gentle way, I love you so,” croons Sunny Ozuna over a mournful brass section. What heart could resist such deep sincerity?

The British Invasion of 1964 changed the course of Chicano soul’s sound and appearance. Acts adapted to the new mod look by ditching the matching tuxedos and hair grease, opting for shag-

gier heads à la the Beatles, and eschewing the traditional look. The new fashions accompanied the most successful recordings yet, with five major rock radio hits of the 1960s made by Chicano and Chicano-influenced bands.

From East L.A. came Cannibal & the Headhunters’ 1965 take on New Orleans favorite “Land of 1000 Dances.” The song climbed into the Top 40 and landed them a tour with the Beatles. Then came the sound that connected young Chicano rock bands with their musical ancestors: the Vox organ. The instrument defined “Woolly Bully” by Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs (formerly Omar Lopez & the Pharaohs), as well as the Sir Douglas Quintet’s

“She’s About a Mover” and “The Rains Came.” In 1966, “96 Tears” by ? & the Mysterians raced up the charts, another score for Texans relocated to Saginaw, Mich.

The organ was crucial according to Molina. “It created a whole different sound you can hear with the Sunglows and on ‘96 Tears,’ using that accordion opening on the organ,” asserts the author. “When Manny Guerra started the Sunglows, he’d been performing with

lot to do with the surf scene. A lot of the young Chicano artists there came from surf groups and started out playing ‘Wipeout.’ You’d get more Fender guitar sound and the horns were more jazz-oriented.”

R&B underwent its own changes in the 1960s. Black groups from Memphis; Muscle Shoals, Ala.; New Orleans; Detroit; and Chicago that once inspired early Chicano soul adapted to the new look with their

10 San Antonio Classic Chicano Soul Bands

- 1) *Sunny & the Sunglows*
- 2) *The Royal Jesters*
- 3) *The Dell-Kings*
- 4) *Charlie & the Jives*
- 5) *Rudy Tee & the Reno Bops*
- 6) *Little Henry & the Laveers*
- 7) *Vic Love & the Lovells*
- 8) *The Lyrics*
- 9) *Li'l Jr. Jesse & the Teardrops*
- 10) *Spider & the Playboys*

10 Great Chicano (and Chicano-Influenced) Radio Hits

- 1) **Sir Douglas Quintet, “She’s About a Mover”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=F-VFq6nWvT8
- 2) **Cannibal & the Headhunters, “Land of 1000 Dances”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RITPFERD8zs
- 3) **The Blendells, “La La La La La”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ajSQTe8nuPo
- 4) **Sam the Sham & the Pharaohs, “Woolly Bully”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVAA-DI7tk4
- 5) **Sunny & the Sunglows, “Talk to Me”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNBqBN30IPM
- 6) **? & the Mysterians, “96 Tears”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xkvK638yKuY&feature=related
- 7) **Three Midnighters, “Jump, Jive and Harmonize”**
- 8) **Rene & Rene, “Lo Mucho Que Te Quiero”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHLyRjbn1QE
- 9) **El Chicano, “Viva Tirado”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQs10ZdNP20
- 10) **Freddy Fender, “Wasted Days and Wasted Nights”**
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUVgkXVDkBA

ranchera-type groups where the accordion was the main instrument, but he wanted to make music for the kids. Accordion was too ‘country.’ To give the music more sophistication, they used the organ in place of the accordion but kept the droning sound.”

The organ-as-accordion sound helped define the San Antonio sound, but the use of two saxophones also emerged as the city’s musical hallmark, especially in the outfit known as the Westside Horns. “They started using twin saxes in place of the accordion, but the horn sections were a little different,” explains Molina. “In L.A., they really didn’t use piano very much. They had guitars. In L.A., the guitar work had a

own variations on a theme. Afros came into vogue, and fashions changed, as did a growing sense of ethnic pride in the music. That same awareness emerged strongly in the Mexican-American culture, fueled by political fights over Mexican farmworkers and the language barrier.

Not all these attempts to mesh sounds were successful. Sometimes the English was phonetic and awkwardly sung, the suits ill-fitting, and the harmonies more well-meaning than pleasing. Look at a 1966 photo of the Sir Douglas Quintet, where they’re molded into the British band look complete with uncooperative hair being forced into bowl cuts. And

yet, the pure beauty of the voices and the sincerity of the music outweighed its faults, and this quirky hybrid continued to shape national and local radio.

In San Antonio, the Eptones, Little Jr. Jesse & the Teardrops, Charlie & the Jives, and Little Henry & the Laveers kept the beat, as Sunny, now with the Sunliners, boasted a soulful repertoire packed with covers like “Hold On, I’m Coming,” sung with a dollop of spicy sax, and a version of “Just a Gigolo” Diamond Dave can’t touch. The Dell-Kings left San Antonio in 1963 for Los Angeles and settled in Las Vegas in 1965 where they eventually morphed into Los Blues and held a record-breaking 280-week gig as house band at the Sahara that ended in the early 1970s.

In 1969, the reformed Sir Douglas Quintet sent “Mendocino” up the charts with Augie Meyer’s Vox organ leading the way once again. A San Francisco band named for leader Carlos Santana that fused Latin percussion with psychedelic overtones and rock melodies released their first album on Columbia that year. The following year, L.A.’s El Chicano hit with a jazzy instrumental called “Viva Tirado.” Musical assimilation, complete.

1973 and Everything After

So if the “menudo circuit” for Chicano soul bands was so widespread, why doesn’t Austin have anything to show for the sound? It does.

The 1970s found local bands like Ruben Ramos & the Mexican Revolution (later the Tejano Revolution) taking a cue from Ruben’s father, Alfonse, as well as Shorty & the Corvettes, La Mafia, Mandy & the COs, and Ben Marines’ Salaman. Not only did those

San Antonio bands travel through the capital, Little Joe & the Latinaires (later Little Joe y la Familia) from Temple connected the dots between Central Texas and Dallas.

Ruben Molina believes the general consensus is that Austin was a place to play on the circuit, rather than a scene like San Antonio. Rose Reyes agrees that “because San Antonio was so much the center of where the music was coming from, Austin was more of a stopping point.” She

also notes that the effect of Chicano soul took root in Austin.

“There are [later] bands like Conjunto Aztlan, who came out the anthropology program at UT,” she says. “People were really proud to be Chicano, and it wasn’t just political.”

Vietnam had taken its toll on San Antonio’s young Chicano males by 1973 (and on blacks and poor whites), and those who returned home did so to a different world changing every day. Chicano soul was alive and pumping in Texas, but rock had progressed well into the FM radio era with glam rock shaking a feather boa, while Doug Sahm was hauling Flaco Jimenez to his clas-

sic Atlantic sessions and applying country grooves with the Tex mix.

Soul music was becoming infused with dance beats in those pre-Hustle days, and in San Antonio, many young Chicanos found themselves dazzled by the rise of heavy metal. By the end of the 1970s, California punk rock musicians like Javier and Alejandro Escovedo were bringing the Zeros and the Nuns a dash of Chicano soul, while Los Lobos redefined roots-rock with a Chicano accent. In Texas, Joe "King" Carrasco revived the Tex-Mex Vox organ, first with the San Antonio-based El Molino, then with the Austin-based Crowns.

Many older purveyors of Chicano soul like Randy Garibay and Frank Rodarte returned from the road and settled back in San Antonio, where "Talk to Me" had never gone out of style. Freddy Fender scored big with "Wasted Days and Wasted Nights" and "Before the Next Teardrop Falls" in the

mid-1970s, though it would be two decades before he won Grammys with Sahm, Durawa, and Augie Meyers in the Texas Tornados.

Carlos Santana's 10-Grammy win for *Supernatural* in 1999 gets props for its soulful revival of the hybrid, and Ruben Molina hears modernized Chicano soul in Los Lonely Boys' harmonies. That R&B-influenced horn section is present in Austin's Del Castillo and Grupo Fantasma, while the Tex-Mex Experience is 100% Chicano-soul influenced, as to be expected of Doug Sahm's son Shawn, the bandleader.

Cleto Escobedo Jr.'s payoff wouldn't be evident during the 30 years his sax lay in mothballs after leaving Los Blues, and he worked his way up from busboy to head butler to the stars at Caesars Palace.

"Five years ago, my son called me and said that ABC wanted to give Jimmy Kimmel a TV show and that they wanted him in the band," the senior Escobedo relates.

"Will you and Mom come support me at my audition?"

"Sure," I said. 'And bring your horn,' he told me."

"So I brought my horn, not knowing that the president of ABC was there with Jimmy Kimmel and they were auditioning me at the same time! My son called me up to play 'Pick Up the Pieces' and we did. As I was walking off, they said, 'Congratulations, we just hired your son as musical director, and Jimmy wants you to be in the band, too.'

"I get chills talking about it."

Not to mention being able to bring decades of Texas-style Chicano soul to the world every night of the week. ■

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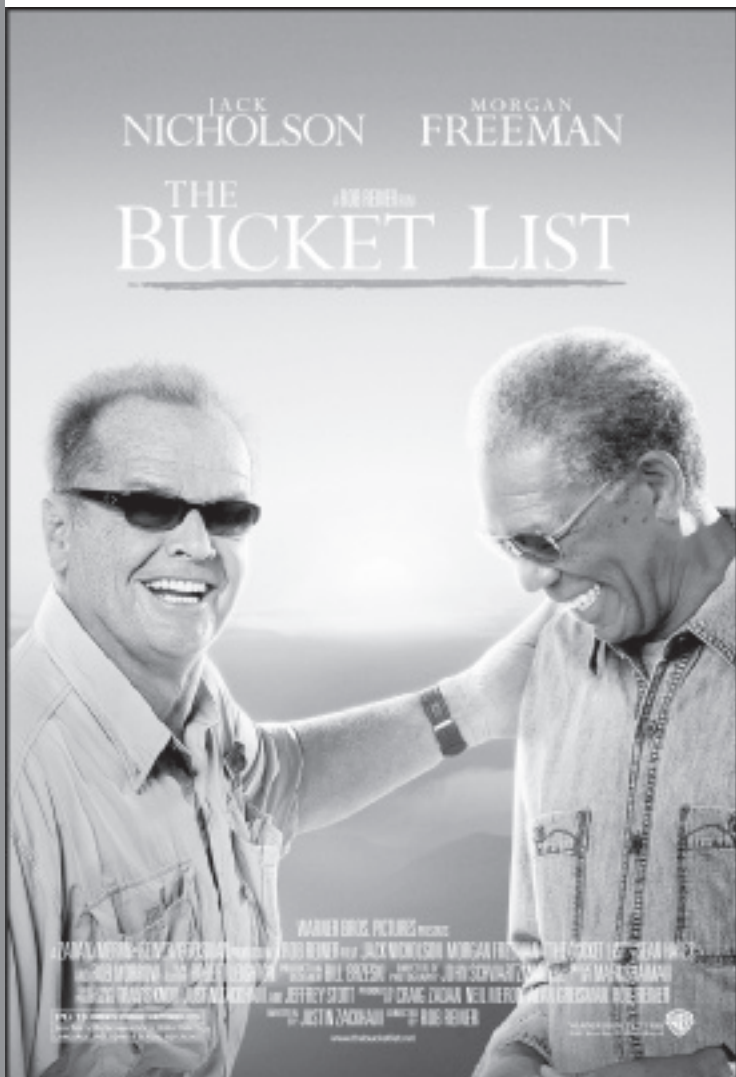
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Friday October 19th

PARAMOUNT THEATRE

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by 4pm, Tuesday, January 1

No purchase necessary. Passes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited. Passes do not guarantee admission.

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CHRONICLE



WU-TANG CLAN

8 Diagrams (Street/Universal Motown)

GHOSTFACE KILLAH

The Big Doe Rehab (Def Jam)

To expect *Iron Flag Part 2* would be wrong. 2001 marked the last time the Wu-Tang Clan swarmed as one, *Flag* an assault of poisonous darts shot over streetwise RZA bangers. Six years later, fifth WTC LP *8 Diagrams* pops vintage Shaolin lyrical heat, “Take It Back” prepping a firing line of “Wolves” in feeding frenzy. Opener “Campfire” burns slow as Method Man and Ghostface tag-team a haunting beat, even depleted Wu MC chemistry rivaled only by Tribe’s Q-Tip and Phife. Yet as that chemistry holds the album together, so does it tear it apart. The much-publicized rift of RZA and his seven other swordsmen glares on *8 Diagrams*, production far more experimental and melodic than any prehiatus work. RZA of Renaissance proffers an unequaled vision, and the inability to convince his soldiers to follow suit keeps the disc from being the complete innovation Wu’s abbot intended. The dubbed out “Get Them Out Ya Way Pa” lacks fervor, a disjointed bassline laid erratically as Meth, U-God, and Masta Killa struggle to fall into rhythm, while “Gun Will Go” slips into the irrelevant as a failed experiment of melodramatic strings generates sleepy verse. Only featured on four tracks, Ghostface Killah’s been busy with his seventh solo LP *The Big Doe Rehab* falls closer to 2006’s *More Fish* than his previous releases, lacking the creative edge that separated him as a solo artist from his fellow Clansman. Ghost comes strong on the Raekwon and Meth accompanied “Yolanda’s House” but mails it in for “White Linen Affair,” name-dropping fellow celebrities who show up for the fictitious Toney Awards. One of the hardest working men in hip-hop fails to push himself on *Big Doe*, but better Ghost rapping than Soulja Boy. So “We Celebrate.”

(Wu-Tang) ★★★

(Ghostface) ★★★

– Chase Hoffberger

LEVON HELM

Dirt Farmer (Vanguard)

If Levon Helm’s first studio album in 25 years strikes an overly joyous chord, it’s not without good reason. Diagnosed with throat cancer in 1998, the backbeat of the Band was left bankrupt and voiceless, slowly recovering from both with *Midnight Rambles* at his studio-barn in Woodstock. *Dirt Farmer* thus proves a revelation, not only through Helm’s amazingly rich vocals but also in the return to his Arkansas roots with a perspective and emotion that testifies to perseverance and faith. The scratchy cut of his voice furrows the traditional material exceptionally, the acoustic set sown with poignantly effusive, if raw, versions of “False Hearted Lover Blues,” “The Blind Child,” and Cajun-slanted “Poor Old Dirt Farmer.” Accented by daughter Amy’s harmonies and Dylan alum Larry Campbell’s guitar and fiddle, the stark Appalachian tremble of “Anna Lee” and exquisitely gentle determination of “Wide River to Cross” balance against J.B. Lenoir’s rollicking “Feelin’ Good,” the playful “Got



★★★★★ Perfect

★★★★ Great

★★★ Good

★★ Mediocre

★ Coaster

PHASES & STAGES

Me a Woman,” and honky-tonk take on the Carter Family’s “Single Girl, Married Girl.” Steve Earle’s miner’s lament “The Mountain” provides the finest moment, however, recalling the Band in sound and driven by Helm’s steady and forceful pulse on drums. At 67, Levon Helm ain’t waltzing his last. ★★★

– Doug Freeman

SEA WOLF

Leaves in the River (Dangerbird)

Into a year of Horses (Band of), Birds (Andrew), and Bears (Panda) dog-paddles Sea Wolf. Baring fangs, Alex Brown Church follows up May’s five-song solo debut, *Get to the River Before It Runs Too Low*, which led off with “You’re a Wolf,” minor key UK melancholy strummed to California folk. Instant kill. At the lupine heart of September’s full-length, *Leaves in the River*, “Wolf,” plus its nine other wolves packs all the teenage drama of *The River’s Edge*, its soundtrack wrapped in 1960s singles-minded romance, the 1970s strum of SoCal, and electro static cling of the 1980s. Dragging the *River* for a drowned romance, the L.A.-based former Irving bassist leads a band of collaborators as he gently hammers his Marxophone, its steel strings producing the rustle of a mandolin-guitar-zither. The sound separation of cello, piano, guitars makes Arcade Fire’s *Neon Bible* sound like a perversion. Opening to the title track’s falling rain and nursery piano, love blossoms on a drunk Halloween night and blooms into the doom of “Winter Windows,” a tale of bourbon, an abusive man, and regret. The pluck of “Black Dirt” shovels morbid self-pity couched in straight-up stereophonic sound control. “Song for the Dead” sounds the alarm of the Church’s cold recriminations. May-September romances never fly.

★★★

– Raoul Hernandez

EAGLES

Long Road out of Eden (ERC)

Fitting that the Eagles’ first studio gathering since 1979’s *The Long Run* should be a Wal-Mart exclusive, since the entire 2-CD affair is a generic sprawl aimed for the largest (read: lowest) common denominator. Following the tepid harmonies of opener “No More Walks in the Wood,” disc one commences by literally excavating the 1970s on J.D. Souther’s “How Long.” Familiar with “Take It Easy” appeal, the single, like nearly every song, calculates an endless recall of earlier hits, contemporizing neither sound nor sentiment, and polished to innocuousness. Embracing their soft-rock legacy with “I Don’t Want to Hear Any More,” “What Do I Do With My Heart,” and “No More Cloudy Days,” the emotions are at best insipid, at worst juvenile. Disc two fares better, but barely. Joe Walsh’s tedious, seven-minute “Last Good Time in Town” is a sad Steely Dan conclusion to “Rocky Mountain Way,” and political invectives “Frail Grasp on the Big Picture” and the title track offer clichéd rants without substance. Supposedly six years in the writing, which dates to Sept. 11, 2001, *Long Road*’s “Peaceful Easy Feeling” deflects any real confrontation while gesturing indignation. Safe, comfortable, and utterly numbing.

★★

– Doug Freeman



IN BOX

THE COMPLETE MOTOWN SINGLES

Vol. 9: 1969 (Hip-O Select)

Even as the Jackson 5’s debut single, “I Want You Back,” spun on a dime straight to No. 1, the Temptations’ burning house of love engulfed Hitsville USA as the label transitioned from Detroit to Hollywood. In between, stretches of desolation. On the 6-CD *Complete Motown Singles Vol. 9: 1969*, the end’s in sight. Long gone are unsung heroines Brenda Holloway, Barbara McNair, and Chris Clark, but when the Tempts unleash the inner city “Runaway Child, Running Wild” on disc one, the mirror-cracking travesty of Soupy Sales’ “MacArthur Park” send-up gets swept under the shag rug. Stevie Wonder’s double A-side “I Don’t Know Why” b/w “My Cherie Amour” vacuums the debris. Disc two cooks with the Funk Brothers’ instrumental wild child, while Martha Reeves & the Vandellas’ “(We’ve Got) Honey Love” still wipes the floor with the Supremes (“The Composer”). Marvin Gaye’s “Too Busy Thinking About My Baby.” The middle platters offer Supremes tuneless/clueless (“The Young Folks”) and weightless (“The Weight”), but Gladys Knight & the Pips get “The Nitty Gritty,” and Smokey Robinson & the Miracles soar on Dion’s “Abraham, Martin, and John.” Wes Henderson’s deep-throated “In Bed” fluffs disc four. The fivespot turns the other CDs into K-Tel, funk and blues distributing South African trumpeter Hugh Masekela’s label, Chisa, to go with a double A-side from Jr. Walker & the All Stars (including the Guess Who’s “These Eyes”) and Gladys Knight & the Pips’ pouring “Cloud Nine.” Stevie Wonder, the Spinners, and “I Want You Back” slam it home. Last call opens with “Someday We’ll Be Together,” the final Supremes single perked by Diana Ross, and kills time until the TKO of Marvin Gaye followed by the Temptations closing 1969 much as they did ‘68: on fire. Up goes the “Psychedelic Shack,” inflamed. www.hip-oselect.com.

★★★

– Raoul Hernandez



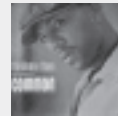
HITS & MISSES BY DARCIE STEVENS

COMMON

ThisIsMe

Then: The Best of Common (Relativity/Legacy)

Common’s early years marked by Bill Cosby intros, Lauryn Hill jams, and four bonus videos. Old-school and dated but still original. ★★



LISA GERRARD

The Best of Lisa Gerrard (4AD)

From Dead Can Dance to the haunting *Gladiator* soundtrack, Lisa Gerrard needs no words for her otherworldly hum. ★★★



LED ZEPPELIN

Mothership (Atlantic)

Besting November’s reissue of *The Song Remains the Same* by a truckload of platinum, the 2-CD *Mothership* lands a wallop. Produced crisp and powerful by Jimmy Page. ★★★



R.E.M. Live (Warner Bros.)

The first live album released from the Athens, Ga., superstars, *Live* doubles as a greatest-hits album. Recorded in Dublin, 2005, the 2-CD/1-DVD set bores through nonhits but paints a vivid picture of legends in a post-9/11 world. ★★★



SPICE GIRLS

Greatest Hits (Virgin)

Fifteen songs of girl power, in case you didn’t get enough the first time around. ★

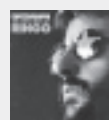


RINGO STARR

Photograph: The Very Best of Ringo (Capitol)

1-CD/1-DVD

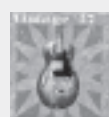
collection spanning 37 years of Richard Starkey’s hits and pitfalls while sliding downhill from the crystalline early years (“Photograph,” “Early 1970”). ★★★



JIM STRICKLAN

Vintage ‘47: The Best of Jim Stricklan (Skinny Man)

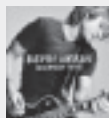
Austinite and KJET deejay Jim Stricklan has been strumming and singing county, folk, and swing for 25 years, equal parts Austin quirk, minimal simplicity, and guitar geekery. *A Mighty Wind* for cosmic cowboys. ★★



KEITH URBAN

Greatest Hits: 18 Kids (Capitol)

Mr. Kidman buffs Nashville-via-Australia Hot 100 country to a high sheen with 16 bona fide hits plus the Steve Forbert-penned “Romeo’s Tune” and new sure-thing “Got It Right This Time (the Celebration).” ★★



Lupe Fiasco, Youssou N’dour, Mary J. Blige, Alicia Keys austinchronicle.com/webextra

LEAD STORY

Great Art! At press time, two major pieces of art at galleries in London and New York City were basically holes in the floors of the buildings, yet were the subjects of glowing reviews. Doris Salcedo's "Shibboleth," a large crack in the floor of a hall at London's Tate Modern (on which at least 15 people have suffered minor injuries after tripping) is said to symbolize racial and class divisions in society. Urs Fischer's "You" at New York's Gavin Brown Enterprise is actually just a crater, 38 feet by 30 feet by 8 feet deep, that, according to one reviewer, meshes "themes of transparency, transformation, disruption and destruction."

GOVERNMENT IN ACTION!

• It's Good to Be a British Prisoner (continued): 1) The Portland Young Offenders' Institute in Dorset recently began holding classes, for up to 30 inmates, in pole-vaulting (but reassured critics that even the most athletic inmates would only get about 13 feet high, whereas the prison walls are 20 feet tall, topped by razor wire). 2) Psychologist Susan Young was paid the equivalent of about \$1,000 a day to counsel convicted murderer Barry George during his recent retrial in London, and among her duties, she said, was to massage his head periodically so that he could concentrate better, to assist his lawyers.

• In January, the town of Herouville, Quebec (population 1,300), famously enacted a "code" of expectations for immigrants, seemingly aimed at Islamic laws and rituals (for example, requiring gender equality, permitting alcohol, rejecting special diets for prisoners, and reaffirming laws against stoning and female genital mutilation). In October, a town spokesman complained that the code had caused Herouville residents to be called "[m]orons, liars, xenophobes, fascists ... dictators, Nazis, racists ... idiots ... mentally deficient, intolerant, stupid, retarded." Nonetheless, the town said it would campaign to have the code adopted nationally.

• The Army Corps of Engineers announced with great fanfare in June that its repairs and upgrades of levees in the Lakeview neighborhood of New Orleans, following Hurricane Katrina, would allow the system to hold back a future storm's flood waters even if the level rose more than 5 feet beyond the Katrina level. However, in November, the corps announced that because of a mistake in calculation (an engineer had used a "minus" sign when a "plus" sign was called for), the expensive levee repairs would actually protect against flooding only 6 inches above the Katrina level.

PEOPLE DIFFERENT FROM US

Australian Wayne Scullino, 30, quit his telecom job in Sydney in early 2007, and, after convincing his wife, they sold their house and moved to Wisconsin for the sole purpose of rooting for the Green Bay Packers, about which he had enjoyed an almost inexplicable fascination since age 15. Said Scullino, "At some point, you've got to stop living the life you've fallen into, and start living the life you want to," and he feared waiting even one more year, since quarterback Brett Favre might retire after this season. He told the Associated Press in October that the family would probably move back to Australia after the Super Bowl and start all over with a new house and new job.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD



ROY TOMPKINS

Just Can't Stop: In recent incidents, two Wal-Mart customers were arrested for shoplifting after yielding to temptation while walking the aisles of stores in Mukwonago, Wis., and Okaloosa County, Fla. The Wisconsin man (reportedly sober for 16 months) impulsively downed seven 12-ounce bottles of Jack Daniel's Lynchburg Lemonade that he saw on a shelf. Florida's Christopher White said "the temptation was too great" when he spotted the White Rain hair spray, and that he removed the nozzles of two containers and drank the contents (and returned the empty containers to the shelf).

POLICE BLOTTER

• Least Competent Florida Police: 1) Sheriff's deputies arrested Cynthia Hunter, 38, in Brandon, Fla., in October, and she remained in jail for 50 days until a lab finally concluded that the "methamphetamine" in her purse was really dried cat urine that she had legally purchased for her son's science project. 2) Deputies arrested Andrew Johnson, a white man, in Ocoee, Fla., in November, believing he was Anthony Johnson, a black man wanted on a felony drug charge. Andrew Johnson was allowed to post bond while the case was under investigation, but his driver's license was confiscated, and his mother had to drive him to and from work.

• The New Torture: When three men stole drugs from a dealer in Edwardsville, Ill., the dealer and a partner allegedly snatched one of the men and roughed him up, seeking payment for the drugs. In November, police arrested the alleged dealers after the roughed-up victim reported that he had been held down, paddled, had some hair shaved off, and then deliberately burned on the neck and shoulders by having freshly baked cookies taken straight from an oven and held against his skin.

THE CONTINUING CRISIS

• In January, Jerome Felske was fired as a truck driver for the city of Chicago when investigators learned that he had 22 criminal convictions on his record. Felske appealed, and in September, the city's Human Resources Board reinstated him, noting that Felske had actually disclosed six of them on his original application and, as to the others, the board said, the city had not proved Felske "intentionally" hid them. Felske, his lawyer had argued, had simply forgotten

about the other 16 (all of which occurred before 1991): "I challenge anyone ... to recall their grocery list from ... two weeks ago."

• Recent Alarming Headlines: 1) "Policeman Shot in Butt With Own Gun While Battling Porn Vending Machine Bandits" (*Mainichi Daily News* [Tokyo], October). 2) "Man Shoots Goat After Wife Wouldn't Bring Him Beer" (*The Northwestern* [Oshkosh, Wis.], November).

LEAST COMPETENT CRIMINALS

• Not Ready for Prime Time: 1) Francis Rocca, 24, was arrested in Pittsfield, Mass., and charged with robbing a gas station in November after being identified by his victim, who pointed out that Rocca's distinctly pimpled face was easily visible underneath the clear plastic bag he wore as a "disguise." 2) Michael Chatman, 35, and two others were arrested in Augusta, Ga., in November after Chatman, in a Target store, tried to return the laser printer the three had allegedly used for counterfeiting. However, they had accidentally left in the machine not only copies of the counterfeit bills but also the original \$20 bill they had used as a model. Said a deputy, "People get wrapped up in the crime, and they forget things."

• Alexander Smith, 46, was arrested in Wake Forest, N.C., in November after a serial dumping spree alongside rural roads, starting about a block from his own home. He had allegedly pushed off his truck, at different stops, a washing machine, then a dryer, then two stoves, and finally a freezer. He was charged with felony littering.

Visit Chuck Shepherd daily at newssoftheweird.blogspot.com (or www.newssoftheweird.com). Send your Weird News to: Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 18737, Tampa, FL 33679 or weirdnewstips@yahoo.com.

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calendar

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27 - THURSDAY, JANUARY 3

C

COMMUNITY p.60 +

A

RTS p.66 +

f

ILM p.70 +

M

USIC listings p.82

this week

COMMUNITY LISTINGS

(PLUS HIGHLIGHTS FROM **ARTS**, **FILM**, AND **MUSIC**) BY NORA ANKRUM

Thursday 27

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS For anyone suffering from anxiety, depression, anger, phobias, or other emotional problems. **Mondays, 7:30-9pm: Unity Church of the Hills, 9905 Anderson Mill Rd. Thursdays, 7:30-9pm: St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, Parish Office Building room 210, 4800 Convict Hill.** (Meetings canceled Mon., Dec. 31, 233-0650. Free. www.recovery-inc.org.)

SPANGLISH 101 Both English and Spanish speakers are welcome at this once-a-week class that teaches both languages. **Thursdays, 5pm. 1303 S. Congress. Free.** zen2ltd@yahoo.com.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.) **Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle With All-You-Can-Eat Miniburgers** @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm
The Wizard of Oz With Dark Side of the Moon @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Thulsa Doom, the Snake Trap
Whisky Bar
Arc Angels Antone's

Friday 28

CO-DEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS is a 12-step program for people interested in overcoming co-dependence and developing healthy relationships. **Tuesdays, 7pm; Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N., 263-1037. Wednesdays, 7pm; Garden Terrace Residence, 1015 W. William Cannon, 243-0884. Fridays, 6:30pm; Shoal Creek Hospital, 3501 Mills, 243-0884. sunny55@austin.rr.com.**

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS offer nooks-and-crannies walking tours that spotlight the dead to bring Austin's history and geography to life. **Fri.-Sat., 8pm. 853-9826. www.hauntedtexas.com.**

EMANCIPET FREE DAYS Fri.-Sat., check-in begins 8am (first come, first served). 587-SPAY. Free. www.emancipet.org.

ENERGY TRANSFER FOR AWAKENING Meet in the Cielo Room for this class from Texas Deeksha. **6:45-9:30pm. Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 476-2535. Donations accepted. www.casadeluz.org.**

HATHA YOGA WITH PAMELA Fri., Dec. 28 & Wed.-Thu., Jan. 2-3, 8-9am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase.

PERMACULTURE: AWARENESS IN THE ENVIRONMENT *Fridays, 9:15-10:15am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase.*

YOGA AT CASA DE LUZ Meet in the Cielo Room today for **Kundalini Yoga en Español (9-10am)**, or sleep in a little before **Marcie's Vinyasa Yoga** class, taught in the auditorium (11am-12:30pm). Casa de Luz, 1701 Toomey, 476-2535. www.yogaespanol.com, www.casadeluz.org.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

(See Film Listings.)

(Good) Friday @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid
Beerfest With Beerlympics
@ Alamo Ritz, 10pm
Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle With All-You-Can-Eat Miniburgers
@ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Bruce Robison Broken Spoke
Red & White Winter Party Emo's
Deadman Mohawk
Freddie Steady's Frontier-a-Go-Go
Ruta Maya
The Blaggards Fadó



Mardi Gras
Indian
Chief Darryl
Montana
(no relation
to Hannah)

Bastrop Brings It

[SEE NEW YEAR'S GUIDE,
NEW ORLEANS NEW YEAR'S IN BASTROP]

BY SARA
ROBBERSON
AND MEGHAN
SPEAKERMAN

FOOD

ANDIAMO RISTORANTE features a classic Italian five-course meal with a glass of celebratory Champagne for every guest. Reservations required. **Mon., Dec. 31, 5-10pm. 2521 Rutland. \$62. www.andiamoitaliano.com.**

ARARAT RISING An eclectic celebration with the Sangre del Sol fire spinners, air-brush body painting, tarot card readings, and an after-hours hookah bar, plus music by the Righteous Tidings, DJ Marymac, and Doctor Bullet. A dinner buffet, organic coffees, and a pomegranate Champagne toast are included, and drag king troupe Kings-N-Things will be there shakin' it up at this quantum leap of a party. **BYOB. Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm-2am. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 236-1226 or 474-TIXS. \$50. www.myspace.com/araratrestaurant.**

AUSTIN STEAM TRAIN: TWILIGHT FLYER If you're looking for a classy night full of style, whimsy, and a sense of humor, this is your affair. The *Flyer* will take you on a Hill Country journey complete with a full buffet meal, beer, wine, and Champagne. Plus, Laughing Out-Loud Productions will provide celebrity impersonators (mature content - adults only, please). Few seats remain; make your reservations now. **Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. 477-8468. \$125. www.austinsteamtrain.org.**

CAFE JULIENNE Wine and dine yourself with a three-course meal of high-end American cuisine. Pick and choose your courses ranging from duck confit salad with sugar pecans and pear slaw to local quail roulade. When your night is done, plop yourself into your bed upstairs at the Stephen F. Austin Hotel, or walk off your celebratory spirits Downtown. **Mon., Dec. 31, 6-9pm. 701 Congress, 721-4288. \$79.99.**

CARMELO'S RISTORANTE Bring in the new and celebrate the old. Carmelo's classic Italian fine dining and the traditional sounds of accordionist Herschel Moody will warm your belly and heart this holiday. Reservations required. **Mon., Dec. 31. 505 E. Fifth, 477-7497. carmelos@carmelosrestaurant.com.**

CRÚ: A WINE BAR Rather than get a meal with wine pairings, why not get wine with meal pairings? Crú presents a four-course dinner tailored to complement their extensive wine selection. Reservations required. (Special gala seating available at 9pm; price includes midnight champagne, party hats, noisemakers, and music.) **Mon., Dec. 31. 238 W. Second, 472-WINE. \$37.50, first seating (5-8pm); \$65, gala seating (9, 9:30, & 10pm); wine, extra charge.**

CRYSTAL BALL This annual **Eastside Community Connection** fundraiser is an elegant way to celebrate the holiday, with big band music, an open bar, and a gourmet dinner. A live auction takes place at 10pm, including goodies like a hunting trip to King Ranch and Round Rock Express tickets; all proceeds benefit ECC's work helping Austin families rise above the poverty line. **Mon., Dec. 31, 7pm-12:30am. Mansion at Judges' Hill, 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800. \$150. www.crystalballaustin.com.**

DINNER AT THE DRISKILL GRILLE Start your New Year's Eve off the correct way with a prix fixe gourmet dinner. Call it your pregame before the storm, but instead of cheap beer at the house, it's a seven-course meal and a bottle of Champagne. Reservations required. **Mon., Dec. 31, 5:30-8:30pm. Driskill Grille, 604 Brazos, 391-7162. \$125, early seating; \$185, late seating. www.driskillgrill.com.**

DOÑA EMILIA'S Enjoy a four-course prix fixe menu of Latin goodness paired with some of Austin's best salsa/merengue, courtesy of Cienfuegos (9pm & 1am). The tasty lineup includes an appetizer of Texas goat cheese sweetened with panela sauce served with grilled white-corn cakes. **Yum. Mon., Dec. 31. Doña Emilia's South American Bar & Grill, 101 San Jacinto, 478-2520. First seating (5-6:30pm), \$29-49; late seating (8-11pm), \$49-69. www.donaemilias.com.**

FADÓ Double your pleasure by ringing in 2008 twice this year - celebrate the Irish New Year with a Champagne toast at 6pm and celebrate again at midnight with a Champagne reception. In the meantime, enjoy your favorite traditional Irish dishes along with drinks, party favors, and music from the Blaggards. **Mon., Dec. 31, 6pm. 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172. \$20. www.fadoirishpub.com/austin.**

FINO This New Year's, the Fino chefs are ready to show off their stuff. Enjoy four courses of Mediterranean-style dishes featuring high-end ingredients and a little extra flare befitting the spirit of the evening. Reservations required. **Mon., Dec. 31, 5-11pm. 2905 San Gabriel #200, 474-2905. \$65. www.finoaustin.com.**

GYPSY Wanna splurge? Gypsy will take care of you. This new culinary blessing is offering Austinites a special eight-course reimagined Italian tasting menu with wine pairing, and of course a classic Champagne toast to ring in the new year. Limited seating available. Reservation only. **Mon., Dec. 31, 7:30pm. 1025 Barton Springs Rd., 499-0200. \$135. www.go2gypsy.com/newYear.html.**

MCCORMICK & SCHMICK'S brings you a special New Year's Eve menu at both locations, showcasing an Australian rock lobster tail with a fillet for \$49.95. Live music at the Downtown restaurant and a free Champagne toast at midnight! Reservations required. **Mon., Dec. 31 (restaurant open till 11pm; bar till 12mid). 401 Congress, 236-9600; 11600 Century Oaks Terrace, 836-0500. www.mccormickandschmicks.com.**

MURDER MYSTERY DINNER Munch on garlic bread and ponder who dunnit. Catch the show at 7pm, or enjoy the late 10pm dinner show of *Really Bad Santa!* Seats are going fast, so make your reservation soon. **Mon., Dec. 31, 7 & 10pm. Spaghetti Warehouse, 117 W. Fourth, 404-9123. \$29.95. www.capcitymystery.com/spaghetti.html.**

NEW YEAR'S DAY AT THREADGILL'S Black-eyed peas! Threadgill's has the good-luck soul food to fill your day-after tummy. **Tue., Jan. 1. Threadgill's World HQ, 301 W. Riverside, 472-9304. www.threadgills.com.**

NEW YEAR'S, FEEL GOOD STYLE New Year's Eve feel-good style, y'all! This snazzy joint opens its doors for a hefty evening of food and festivities, with DJ Impact caressing the turntables. Choose your evening, with either individual entry including one glass of Champagne and one menu item, or a reserved table for four with dinner, wine service, and a bottle of Champagne. For those who don't know how to do it small, reserve half of the cork room for yourself and 14 friends with a buffet, two bottles of your choice of wine, and three bottles of bubbly. **Mon., Dec. 31, 6pm-2am. J. Black's Feel Good Lounge, 710 W. Sixth Ste. B, 433-6954. \$30 (\$500, reserved table; \$2,500, cork room). www.jblacks.com.**

PRIMIZIE OSTERIA Italian and world fusion come together with fresh, seasonal ingredients in a six-course fixed-price menu (or four courses for the early seating), with a glass of Prosecco Frozza upon arrival. A complete vegetarian menu will be available. (Reservations required by *Thu., Dec. 27, 5pm.*) **Mon., Dec. 31. 1000 E. 11th. \$60 (5-6pm, four courses); \$75 (after 6pm, six courses). www.primizieaustin.com.**

STUBB'S Looking for a good old Texas shindig to ring in 2008? Stubb's cures what ails ya: a buffet of their famous barbecue, the swinging tunes of the South Austin Jug Band, and a Champagne toast all for the price of

one. *Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm. Stubb's, 801 Red River, 480-8341. \$30. www.stubbsaustin.com.*

Z'TEJAS All three Z'Tejas location will be serving up four-course meals with porcupine shrimp, cowboy rib eyes, dessert, and sparkling wine – all for only \$40 dollars a person. Keep this Southwest option on your radar if you are looking to stuff yourself without breaking the bank this New Year's. Reservations required. *Mon., Dec. 31. Z'Tejas: 1110 W. Sixth (478-5355), 9400-A Arboretum Blvd. (346-3506), 10525 W. Parmer (388-7772). \$40.*

ZAX PINTS & PLATES serves a prix fixe dinner tonight in addition to the regular menu, along with live music and a midnight Champagne toast. Reservations required. *Mon., Dec. 31. 312 Barton Springs Rd., 481-0100. \$50 (wine pairings available for \$25).*

HOTELS

A NIGHT OF ELEGANCE AT THE DRISKILL Strap on your slacks and silk tie for this annual gala featuring the big band sounds of Mr. Fabulous and a gourmet five-course meal with wine pairings. Dance the night away on a happy belly while awaiting the midnight Champagne toast and balloon drop, and don't forget your party favors and souvenir photos. Fancy! *Mon., Dec. 31, 7:30pm-12:30am. The Driskill Hotel, 604 Brazos, 474-5911. \$225. www.driskillhotel.com.*

FOUR SEASONS Enjoy a special New Year's Eve meal at the Four Seasons' new **TRIO** restaurant this evening or just hang in the **Lobby Lounge** (8pm-12mid), where house favorite Brett Cline works the keys over while you party your pants off, waiting for the traditional balloon drop at midnight (after which you're free to retire to your cozy hotel room). *Mon., Dec. 31. 98 San Jacinto, 478-4500. Lobby Lounge: \$25; hotel packages start at \$340 (add Dec. 30 for \$20.07, or Jan. 1 for \$20.08). www.fourseasons.com.*

HYATT LOST PINES (See New Orleans New Year's in Bastrop, below, for details.) *Mon., Dec. 31, 5pm. 575 Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, 512/308-1234. \$339.*

PARTY AT STEPHEN F. AUSTIN Party it up in the bar while Margaret Wright tickles the keys for your listening pleasure. Hors d'oeuvres and dessert provided, as well as a glass of Champagne at midnight. The best part: the bed upstairs and breakfast waiting for you in the morning. *Mon., Dec. 31, 10pm. InterContinental Stephen F. Austin, 701 Congress, 457-8800. \$379 (\$50, without accommodations). www.austin.intercontinental.com.*

MUSIC

See *Music Listings, p.82*, for more live music happenings this New Year's Eve.

A SWAMP POP NEW YEAR'S EVE Dance your derrière off to the Gulf Coastal soulfulness of **Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights** as they bring the most danceable hits of the Fifties and Sixties into the new (ish) millennium. Free Champagne toast at midnight. Food and full bar available. *Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm. Austin Moose Lodge, 2101 E.M. Franklin, 263-4178. \$20 (\$35, couples; \$10, moose members). sdean5@austin.rr.com, www.myspace.com/saveaustinmoose.*

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS Dress in your best for this smoke-free, alcohol-free dance-off with music by Grammy Award-winning band **Brave Combo** (you're gonna smell so sweet in the morning). Catering by Go-Go Gourmet. Free mini polka lesson at 8pm. *Mon., Dec. 31, 8:30pm-12:30am. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River, 989-3939. \$50 (\$40, members). www.austinballroomdancers.org.*

AUSTIN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS SIMPLY SINATRA You'll think it's ol' blue eyes himself onstage as in-demand vocalist Steve Lippia and the Austin Symphony Orchestra (with guest conductor Victor Vanacore) swoon and sway you into 2008. *Sun.-Mon., Dec. 30-31, 8pm. Palmer Events Center, 900 Barton Springs Rd., 476-6064. \$25, bleacher seating; \$40, table seating. www.austinsymphony.org.*

BLING IN THE NEW YEAR It's time to get tacky! Beauty Bar wants you to remember what New Year's Eve is all about: fun ... and shiny things. Wear your flashiest duds and sparkly craptacular jewels while you shake it to the musical stylin's of Prince Klassen, Yo Majesty, and the Laughing, with DJ Orion before, in between, and after. Free portraits, Champagne toast, and a King and Queen Bling contest round out the evening. *Mon., Dec. 31. Beauty Bar, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943. \$20 (\$15, advance; e-mail bart@beautybar.com). www.beautybar.com.*

CHRYSLIS: A NIGHT OF TRANSFORMATION Downtown's most chic new club rings in the new year with a classic masquerade ball. Come as a rock star, local celeb, fantasy character, movie starlet, or whatever other glamorous visage you can conjure ... just don't come as you are. Tonight, it's all about transformation. Music by DJ Funky Junction. *Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm. Pangaea Nightclub, 409 Colorado, 472-8882. \$75 (reserved table packages: \$1,200, includes a bottle each of Grey Goose and Moët White Star; \$2,008, includes Magnum bottle of Grey Goose and a bottle of Dom Pérignon).*

HOWDY '08 FAMILY NIGHT This Texas-style, family-friendly party celebrates the right way, with freshly smoked barbecue, bootin'

and scootin' to the Texas Old Town Wranglers, and plenty of space for the kiddos to run around with poppers. This is an alcohol-free event. *Mon., Dec. 31, 7pm-12:30am. Texas Old Town, 1205 Roland Ln., Kyle, 512/396-1800. \$15 (\$8, age 4-12; free, ages 3 & under). info@texasoldtown.com, www.texasoldtown.com.*

NYE DANCE WITH ALVIN CROW The Whites know what they're doin' when it comes to honky-tonkin' and ringin' in the new year. So needless to say, this celebration is gonna be a hoot with nothing but streamers, a boot-covered dance floor, and good times in sight. *Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189. \$20. www.brokenspokeaustintx.com.*

SOCK HOP Get your man hair greased or dig out your poodle skirt, 'cause this retro party's gonna be twistin' in the new year, baby! *Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm. Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. \$10. www.eastinns.com.*

THE MONARCH NEW YEAR'S BALL Be prepared to dance, because only the subhuman will be able to sit still at this bash. Austin's own Latin sensation Grupo Fantasma is ready to switch it up along with other world beat artists, and between songs, enjoy the vibrant exhibit by Austin-based Brazilian painter Lula Marcondes. *Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711. \$45 (\$30-35, in advance). www.monarcheventcenter.com.*

OTHER

FIRST NIGHT This family-friendly, alcohol-free festival of art, beauty, entertainment, and fun is the full-shebang, with everything imaginable to see, touch, smell, and play with. You dream it; it's there (unless you dream of baby-eating zombies). (See "Magic Time," p.32, for more.) *Mon., Dec. 31, 3pm-12mid(ish). Downtown/Auditorium Shores, 374-0000. Free. www.firstnightaustin.org.*

FIRST NIGHT VOLUNTEERS are needed to help make this year's grand procession, fireworks displays, and performances go off without a hitch. Your help will be valuable whether you only have a couple of hours to spare or you want to spend your whole evening volunteering. Call 374-0000 or see www.firstnightaustin.org for details. *Mon., Dec. 31, 3pm-12mid. Downtown Austin. volunteer@firstnightaustin.org.*

FOR THE KIDS: AUSTIN ROCK GYM LOCK-IN While you party, tie your tykes up at the Austin Rock Gym. Kids 10-15 will enjoy pizza, drinks, a piñata, and all the necessary gear to climb till they can't climb anymore. *Mon.-Tue., Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 8pm-7am. Austin Rock Gym, 4401 Freidrich, 416-9299. \$30. www.austinrockgym.com.*

GAG REFLEX COMEDY BASH The veteran

Austin sketch comedy troupe brings its classic holiday sketches and a bunch of brand new material to the Hyde Park stage for two year-end shows. (See Arts Listings, Comedy, p.66, for details.) *Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 731-3945. \$20 (early show); \$40 (or \$75 per couple, late show). www.gagplanet.com.*

HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS Before you party, why not give a little? Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers to help deliver food to Austin's homebound on New Year's Eve day. Start your 2008 resolution – to help – early. *Mon., Dec. 31. www.mealsonwheelsandmore.org.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWALK Walking on fire is a symbolic and spiritual event for those brave and adventurous enough to try. Fire of Intent welcomes you to transition into the new year with this fire-walking workshop. Complete participation is optional. You don't have to walk on coals – you could just watch a bunch of hippies burn their feet, instead. *Mon., Dec. 31, 6-11pm. In Austin; directions provided with registration, 415/407-5452. \$55. kim@fireofintent.com, www.fireofintent.com.*

★ NEW ORLEANS NEW YEAR'S IN BASTROP

Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans? Smithville native son, New Orleans Katrina transplant, and current Bastrop resident **Hannibal Lokumbe** does. So it's only fitting that the jazz master would bring a chunk of that Big Easy with him for this weekend's worth of throw-down that he's helped coordinate (for the second year in a row) leading up to New Year's Eve.

The folderol begins Saturday afternoon in downtown Bastrop with an authentic, free, and open-to-the-public **Second Line Parade**. Now this ain't your everyday Santa-throwing-candy-from-the-firetruck deal – this is bedecked and befeathered **Mardi Gras Indians** led by **Chief Darryl Montana**. This is the Big Easy's **Tremé Brass Band** and the **Black Men of Labor Steppers** leading the charge. And most impor-

tantly, this is *you* and the rest of the parade-route revelers joining in conga-style at the end of the line to follow the meandering party to its conclusion at its point of origin, the **Bastrop Opera House**. Later in the evening, join Lokumbe and choir at the **Hyatt Lost Pines Resort** at 7pm for a free preview of the next night's big New Orleans program.

You'll be glad you were at the right place at the right time (and having booked the whole weekend at the Hyatt), because the party continues Sunday night as the Lost Pines Resort welcomes the legendary **Dr. John**, bringing his Grammy-winning, night trippin' self to headline the proceedings. Opening the bill, Hannibal Lokumbe unveils his powerful new composition, "Land of Mercy, Land of Tears," accompanied by a riveting 70-piece community choir made up of local folks. Tickets for the concert are available separately, and the resort has a package deal that includes tickets and accommodations for four for the evening.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE BALL Costumes, DJ Filthy Rich, balloons, and a midnight Champagne toast. It will all go by so fast. (Call to reserve a table.) *Mon., Dec. 31, 10pm-3am. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.*

NEW YEAR'S IMPROV EXTRAVAGANZA

The Hideout invites you to ring in the new year improv-style, with an evening of games and skits with a Champagne toast at midnight to top it all off. (See Arts Listings, Comedy, p.66, for more.) *Mon., Dec. 31, 10:30pm-2am. Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$20. www.hideouttheatre.com.*

NEW YEAR'S SHOW WITH JOE ROGAN Although we have come to know and love him as the host of *Fear Factor* and *News Radio*, Rogan is also a veteran man of the mic, so he probably won't be coaxing anyone to bury themselves in cockroaches this New Year's Eve. (We said *probably*.) Tonight's late-show audience gets a midnight Champagne toast, breakfast buffet, and party favors. *Mon., Dec. 31, 8 & 10:30pm. Cap City Comedy Club, 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. Early show: \$30 (\$35, reserved seating); late show: \$60 (\$65, reserved). www.capcitycomedy.com.*

NEW YEAR'S WEEKEND INTENSIVE Led by sanyasi preachers of the beautiful Barsana Dham, this weekend-long stay is one of relaxation, meditation, and tranquility far from the shenanigans in the city. Families are welcome to the yoga classes and meditation sessions, and a 24-hour continuous chant known as Akhand Sankirtan will take place from noon on New Year's Eve to noon the following day. *Fri.-Tue., Dec. 28-Jan. 1. Barsana Dham, 400 Barsana Rd., 288-7180. Whole weekend: \$101 per family; single day: \$25 per family; chant, free (all fees exclude room charge; room charges vary). www.barsanadham.org.*

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR Austin's alumnae chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority hosts this dance as a scholarship fundraiser for high school students. *Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm-1am. \$40. crob@mail.utexas.edu.*

SKATING ON THE PLAZA It's easy to pretend you live in a state with four actual seasons when you're ice-skating on the rooftop plaza! Bring loved ones to Whole Foods, and enjoy the last two days of the definitive holiday experience: falling on ice. *Mon.-Tue., Dec. 31-Jan. 1, 10am-8pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 542-2260. \$10. www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/calendars/LMR.html.*

WEAR YOUR CREATIVITY INTO 2008: TIARA- & CROWN-MAKING Grab your gals and make a little sparkle to darn your noggin. The Art Pad hosts Austin artist Penina as she guides you on a whimsical pregame event of wire work and self-expression. *Mon., Dec. 31, 7-9pm. Art Pad Studio, 1403 W. 47th, 323-0802. \$30 (\$50, with a friend; price includes all materials and light refreshments). www.artpadstudio.com.*

TRANSPORTATION

CAPITAL METRO is offering free shuttles for First Night patrons from the state garages at Colorado & Lavaca to the Downtown celebration. The general weekday bus schedules will be in effect on New Year's Eve, including the Night Owl, which runs *12mid-3am*. Not sure which bus routes will get you where you need to go? You can always use Capital Metro's handy online trip planner (www.dadnab.com for details). *Mon., Dec. 31. 474-1200. www.capmetro.org.*

SOBER RIDE Reserve this awesome service for that one friend that lost not only a shoe last year, but his wallet as well – yes, this means *free* rides are available for the penniless and confused. Rules apply to this Yellow Cab service, of course: You must be 21 or older, the fare is free up to \$30, and you have to be going *home* rather than to another bar or party. And though the ride is complimentary, make sure to tip! *Mon., Dec. 31. 657-2999 (Sober Ride); 452-9999 (regular Yellow Cab services). www.yellowcabaustin.com.*

The Hyatt will also offer a hoopededoo of a New Year's Eve package for Monday night, featuring a barbecue buffet, live two-steppin' Texana program **Camp Cookie & the Cow Camp Review** (featuring **K.R. Wood**), as well as blues, jazz, and R&B with **Popular Demand**; carriage rides; glow-in-the-dark putt-putt; the **Total Request Teen Hangout**; face painting; fireworks; and lots of fun for the whole derved family. Package includes the night's activities, plus accommodations for two adults and two kids, with breakfast the following morning. *Dec. 29-31. Parade & Choir Preview: Sat., 1 & 7pm; free. New Orleans concert: Sun., 7:30pm; \$55 (\$27.50, ages 13-17; \$339, with hotel with accommodations for four). New Year's Eve at the Hyatt: Mon., 5pm; \$339 (with accommodations for four). Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa, 575 Lost Pines Rd., Lost Pines, 512/308-1234. www.visitlostpines.com.*

– Kate X Messer

the young ones

VICTOR PETER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP This \$500 scholarship from the Czech Heritage Society of Texas is available to graduating high school seniors. To apply, address one of the following two topics in a 300-word essay: 1) **A Family Member Who Represents Czech Heritage** or 2) **A Family Member Who Contributed to the Czech Heritage in the United States**. (Applicants need not be of Czech origin to apply.) Call for more details. *Deadline:* Feb. 28. 281/342-4898.

HOLIDAY THEATRE VARIETY CAMP Zach Scott Theatre hosts a **New Year's Celebration** camp featuring theatre games, comedy, improvisation, singing, dancing, and more for kids ages 5-15. *Wed.-Fri., Jan. 2-4, 9am-5pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0594 x236. \$150.*

BLANTON MUSEUM Hot Art Hip Kids Dec. 30, 3:30pm. The Blanton Museum of Art, MLK & Congress, 471-7324.

KIDS HOLIDAY MOVIE TIME Call to see what's playing today. *Through Dec. 28. 1pm. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org/CALENDAR.html.*

SPRING TEEN FILMMAKING WORKSHOP Austin filmmaker Kat Candler teaches this course on screenwriting, directing, scheduling, marketing, festivals, and more. *Jan. 21-April 21. Mondays, 6:30-8:30pm. Austin School of Film, 906 E. Fifth #106, 236-8877. \$550. www.storieproductions.com.*

★ **WINTER BREAK CAMPS AT AUSTIN NATURE & SCIENCE CENTER** feature a new theme every day for ages 5-7 (like Animals in Winter, Beauty & the Creek, and Amazing Space) as well as ages 8-11 (with topics like Super Science, Migration & Hibernation, and Underground Adventurers.) *Mon.-Wed., Dec. 26-28 & Jan. 2-4, 8am-5pm. (Weather Works Camp for ages 5-7: Mon., Jan. 7, 8am-5pm). Austin Nature & Science Center, 301 Nature Center, 327-8181. \$40 per day. www.ci.austin.tx.us/ansc.*

★ **HOLIDAY BREAK GOLF CAMP** Kids will get help with their individual skill-development needs at this three-day camp featuring all-day instruction followed by optional free-play time in the afternoons (3-4:30pm). *Wed.-Fri., Jan. 2-4, 9am-3pm. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein, 732-0380 x204. \$160 (includes golf fees & snacks; children should bring sack lunches). matt@firstteeaustin.org. www.firstteeaustin.org/holidaycamp.*

PLAYHOUSE DISNEY LIVE! Join the characters from Mickey Mouse Clubhouse, Little Einsteins, Handy Manny, and My Friends Tigger and Pooh for a Disney-riffic good time. *Thu., Dec. 27, 12:30-3:30pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River, 471-7744. \$20-35. www.uterwincenter.com, www.texasboxoffice.com.*

KIDS HOLIDAY STORYTIMES 10am & noon. *Fri., Dec. 28. Wells Branch Community Library, 15001 Wells Port Dr., 989-3188. Free. www.wblibrary.org/CALENDAR.html.*

HAND TALK is a weekly sign language class for kids (1-2pm) with a follow-up session for adults (2-3pm). *Saturdays. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free. www.mitchie.com.*

FAMILY YOGA for parents and kids. *Sat., Dec. 29, 10-11am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.*

★ **REPPY: THE HOLIDAYS ARE FOR HUGGING** The fabulous Reppy returns to the Vortex with a yuletide music and comedy show for kiddos (ages 4-12) and families who love to laugh. Here's a lot of interactive fun in the spirit of the season. *Sat., Dec. 29, 3pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282.*

SUNDAY KIDS SHOW Join Mr. Steve for a drumming extravaganza. *Sun., Dec. 30, 10:30am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.*

NEW YEAR, NEW BOOK! Read the fresh new story *Chester* by Melanie Watt, plus some other new stories that will start the year off right and with snacks. *Tue., Jan. 1, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

DANCE FEVER with *Maisy Likes Dancing*. Limbo with snacks! *Wed., Jan. 2, 10:30am. BookPeople, 603 N. Lamar, 472-5050.*

MUSIC TOGETHER CLASSES are designed to nurture children's musical abilities between the critical developmental stages of infancy and kindergarten. Call to reserve your spot in one of several free sample classes offered this week. *Thu.-Fri., Jan. 3-4, 10:15am, 11:15, 3:15, 4:15pm. Heartsong Music, 2700 W. Anderson #320, 371-9506. www.heartsongmusictogether.com.*

Saturday 29

ARTIST'S MARKET *Most Saturdays, 10am-6pm (check website for changes). Mother Egan's Irish Pub, 715 W. Sixth, 535-5761. Free. www.downtownartistmarket.com.*

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET features fresh organic produce, meats, and cheeses straight from surrounding Texas farms, plus live music every week. *Saturdays, 9am-1pm. Republic Square Park, 422 Guadalupe, 974-6700. Free. www.austinfarmersmarket.org.*

★ **ECOLOGICAL LITERACY WORKDAY** Donate your time for some trail maintenance, habitat restoration, and other projects this morning, and in return you'll get to attend a local-ecology informational session all about Austin's birds and bugs. *9am-1pm. Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory, 2210 FM 973 S., 972-1960. kevin.anderson@ci.austin.tx.us.*

HAND TALK This weekly sign language class has a special session for kids (1-2pm) before the adult session begins (2-3pm). *Saturdays. Mitchie's Gallery, 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 923-9523. Free.*

MUSICAL FAVORITES IN THE DOG TROT CABIN Don't miss Erik Hokkanen playing old-time Texas tunes with his fiddle on the Dog Trot Cabin porch, part of the history museum's permanent exhibit collection. *2-4pm. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. \$3-5.50. www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

day TRIPS

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

Texas wines have come a long way since commercial grapes were planted outside of Lubbock in 1974. For the first couple of decades, the Texas wine industry thought it had to compete with the Merlots, Cabernet Sauvignons, and Chardonnays of the world. As wine drinkers become more knowledgeable and adventuresome, many of the wineries began breaking out of the established lines.

Texas has its own set of obstacles to overcome to grow grapes commercially. Weather, bacteria, and fungus have wiped out several large vineyards. Winemakers have been forced to experiment with different varieties of grapes, resulting in some interesting choices for the consumer.

There are at least 96 wineries in Texas, most of them owner-operated. The industry contributed more than \$1 billion to the state's economy in 2007, up from \$170 million in 2003. With almost 4,000 acres of commercial grapes, Texas is fifth among wine-producing states.

Kim McPherson, owner and winemaker at McPherson Cellars in Lubbock, said in a recent lecture to wine aficionados, "[Texas vineyards] have to plant grapes suited to the land, not market conditions." McPherson's wines favor the Rhone and Italian varietals such as Sangiovese, Viognier, Mourvèdre, and Syrah. The winery is in a converted soda-bottling plant at 3215 28th St. (806/543-5313), a few blocks from the Buddy Holly Center.

When visiting a winery, it is nice to remember your manners and that the person pouring your free or inexpensive samples is often a passionate vintner. Don't be afraid to try new, unfamiliar wines. Part of the fun of gaining an appreciation for wine is experiencing the unknown. And don't hesitate to ask questions. It shows an interest in the very personal product and can only broaden your viticulture knowledge.

There is no way I could list here all of the interesting products that Texas wineries are bottling. If I tried, then I would surely leave some out. I will instead try to give you a starting point for your wine-tasting journey.

Delaney Vineyards & Winery has been making wines for more than 20 years in their modern facilities in Grapevine off of U.S. 121 (817/481-5668). The winery produces the usual lineup of wines from grapes grown at its vineyards in Lamesa, south of Lubbock. Although they offer wonderful vintages,

SAHAJA YOGA MEDITATION aims to help you achieve balance, inner peace, and resistance to stress, depression, and anxiety. *Saturdays, 11am-noon. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 828-0129. Free. www.austinsahajayoga.org.*

★ **SECOND LINE PARADE & LOKUMBE CHOIR PREVIEW** (See New Orleans New Year's in Bastrop, p.61.)

SUNSET VALLEY FARMERS MARKET has all the locally produced fresh foods you could ever want, plus lots of nice local farmers to sell 'em to you. Consistently voted to be among the top farmers' markets in the country (most recently by the Audubon Society and *Eating Well* magazine), SVFM is celebrating its 10th year, so stop by and tell them happy birthday. *Saturdays, 9:30am-1pm. Toney Burger Center, 3200 Jones, 280-1976. Free. www.sunsetvalleyfarmersmarket.org.*

THE HIERARCHY SPEAKS ON LOVE FOR THE NEW YEAR Proclaim your 2008 resolutions today at the Healing Light Center. *1:30pm. Healing Light Center, 7018 William Wallace Way, 278-0059. \$5 donation. www.sashawhite.com.*

TILING FLOORS & WALLS CLINIC *Saturdays, 11am. All Home Depot locations. Free. www.homedepotclinics.com.*

WINE & BEER INFORMATIONALS Whole Foods' beverage experts host tasting sessions and Q&As every week for wine- and beer-lovers (or the soon-to-be): **Wine 101** (at the wine kiosk), *Saturdays, 10:30-11am; Beer 101* (at the beer kiosk), *Sundays, noon-12:30pm. Whole Foods Market, 525 N. Lamar, 476-1206.*



GERALD E. MCLEOD

some of their most interesting work has been with the Norton or Cynthiana grapes, a native North American varietal. The grape is capable of making a rich red wine with lots of character.

To do a taste comparison, try the wines made from the Norton grape from Stone House Vineyard at 24350 Haynie Flat Rd., in Spicewood, west of Austin (512/264-3630). A relative newcomer to the wine game, Tehuacana Creek Vineyards & Winery at 6826 Hwy. 6 E., east of Waco (254/875-2375), also has had good success with a Norton blend.

Like many others, Raymond Haak thinks that the future of Texas wine lies with "hot-weather varietals." Haak Vineyard & Winery, at 6310 Ave. T in Santa Fe, Texas, near Galveston (409/925-1401), has been doing great things with Italian Sangiovese grapes and Spanish Tempranillo grapes.

You can also find Tempranillo wines at Alamosa Wine Cellars, 677 CR 430 in Bend (325/628-3313). Besides having success with the fruity Viognier grape, Jim Johnson, the winemaker at Alamosa, also has experimented with Mourvèdre grapes. The Mourvèdre is an intense red grape often tamed with Grenache and Syrah or used to make a dry Rosé.

The Tempranillo and Mourvèdre grapes are also being used at Kiepersol Estates Vineyards and Winery, 3933 FM 344 E., outside of Tyler (903/894-8995). The East Texas winery also makes a wine with white Semillon grapes, a traditional blending partner with Sauvignon Blanc.

Rising Star Vineyards, 1001 CR 290, south of Cisco (254/643-1776), had a limited release of a wine made with the Barbera grape. A native of Italy, Barbera tends to have a robust flavor with higher acid levels and lower tannins than some other red wines.

No matter which Texas wine you try, the fun is in the journey. After all, someone went to a lot of trouble to make that bottle just for you. For a complete list of Texas wineries, go to www.gotexanwine.org.

860th in a series. Day Trips, Vol. 2, a book of "Day Trips" 101-200, is available for \$8.95, plus \$3.05 for shipping, handling, and tax. Mail to: Day Trips, PO Box 33284, South Austin, TX 78704.

YELLERDAWG/SATURDAY SAGES DEMOCRATS WEEKLY MEETING *Saturdays, 11am. Tres Amigos, 1801 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 327-1776. bmcafee@austin.rr.com.*

DOWNTOWN GHOST TOURS (See Friday.)
EMANCIPET FREE DAYS (See Friday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
The Rocky Horror Picture Show @ Alamo Village, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Old 97's *La Zona Rosa*
The Diamond Smugglers *Continental Club*
Tenor Madness *Elephant Room*
The Blaggards *Fadó*

Sunday 30

★ **HANNIBAL LOKUMBE & HIS 70-PERSON CHOIR** (See New Orleans New Year's in Bastrop, p.61, for details.)

★ **HERITAGE ARTISANS** Visit Pioneer Farms today for special demonstrations of 19th century rural life in Central Texas (and don't forget to buy your annual PF pass at the special introductory rate before it expires Dec. 31). *1-5pm. Pioneer Farms, 10621 Pioneer Farms Dr., 837-1215. \$8 (\$6, kids). www.pioneerfarms.org.*

★ **LAST SUNDAY** combines politics, music, and spirituality into one monthly salon-style get-

out of town

BY GERALD E. MCLEOD

TEXAS HILL COUNTRY REGIONAL CHRISTMAS LIGHTING TRAIL leads to special events in Boerne, Burnet, Dripping Springs, Llano, Goldthwaite, Johnson City, Marble Falls, Round Mountain, New Braunfels, and Wimberley. *Through Jan. 1. 866/839-3378. www.tex-fest.com.*

EMILYANN TRAIL OF LIGHTS features lighted displays and nightly entertainment around ye olde yule log. *Through Jan. 1. EmilyAnn Theatre, Wimberley, 512/847-6969. www.emilyann.org.*

EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO THE COLORADO RIVER TRAIL highlights attractions, parks, entertainment, museums, recreation, and events along a 500-mile-plus section of Central Texas. *San Saba to Matagorda, 800/776-5272 x3399. Free. ecocode@lcra.org. www.lcra.org.*

LO AND BEHOLD showcases the art of folk artists Mike Miller, Tom Sale, the Rev. Johnnie Swearingen, and L.T. Thomas. The gallery is a depository for folk art collected from around the South. *Through Feb. 17. Saturdays & Sundays. Webb Art Gallery, 209 W. Franklin, Waxahachie, 972/938-8085. Free. www.webbartgallery.com.*

BALD EAGLE TOURS goes in search of the American Bald Eagles that winter along the upper Colorado River on a triple-decker boat. Winery tour and sunset cruises also available. Reservations required. *Saturdays, 9am. Vanishing River Cruises, Canyon of the Eagles, Lake Buchanan, 512/756-6986. \$33. www.vtrc.com.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA begins with appetizers and beverages in the Menke House parlor, followed by a buffet dinner and dancing with music by Dickie Lee Erwin. Festivities end at midnight with Champagne, sparklers, "Auld Lang Syne," and bell-ringing. Reservations are required. *Mon., Dec. 31, 7:30pm. Festival Hill, Round Top, 979/249-3129. \$90. www.festivalhill.org.*

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN GRUENE features Asleep at the Wheel with special guest Sunny Sweeney. Advanced tickets recommended. *Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm. Gruene Hall, 1281 Gruene Rd., Gruene, 830/629-5077. \$60. www.gruenehall.com.*

together. Today's program, hosted by Austin activist/artist/actor Sean Tate, focuses on **Poverty in America** and features guest speaker Sarah Michel (of Caritas of Austin), along with Last Sunday co-founders Eliza Gilkyson, the Rev. Jim Rigby, and Robert Jensen. Tony and Eliza Gilkyson perform. 6:30-8:30pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 471-1990. \$8 suggested donation. www.thirdcoastactivist.org/lastsunday.html.

RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE! Not a pay-as-you-throw customer with the city? That doesn't mean they won't recycle your tree for you. Just drop it off today (minus the stand and ornaments) at Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. (follow the signs to the polo fields), and the city will grind it into mulch to be given away free later in January. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm for details. (If you are a pay-as-you-throw customer, just leave your tree at your curb on your yard trimming/recycling pickup day.) Sun., Dec. 30; Sat-Sun., Jan. 5-6; 10am-4pm.

UNTITLED Take a new approach to faith for the new year. This group of "post-college, pre-kids" young professionals hopes to offer an alternative to mainstream church and meets regularly to discuss life and faith. 10am. Quad 5-C at Riverbend Church, 4214 Capital of TX Hwy. N. Free. www.riverbend.com.

WINE & BEER INFORMATIONALS (See Saturday.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)

(Good) Friday @ Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm
Head @ Alamo Ritz, 7pm

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Dr. John, Hannibal Lumbe

Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa

Rusted Shut, Black Mayonnaise Emo's

Great Northern Guns, Follow That Bird!

Beerland

Monday 3 1

CLASSES WITH PROFESSOR DOIG UT professor George Doig teaches Latin, medical terminology, and something called "English word power" at these weekly classes. Call to RSVP. Mondays & Wednesdays, 1-3pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 472-9638. Free, with cafe purchase. www.rutamaya.net.

NEW YEAR'S EVE EVENTS See New Year's Guide, p.60, for the low-down on tonight's parties, and see "Magic Time," p.32, for everything you need to know about the First Night festivities Downtown.

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)

Good Riddance, 2007! All over ATX
The Blaggards Fad6

Tuesday 0 1

FOSTER PARENT ORIENTATION First Tuesdays, 6pm. Camelot Community Care, 1524 S. I-35 #218, 444-0900. hshahan@camelotcommunitycare.org.

LOCKS OF LOVE HAIR DRIVE Throughout January at Avant Salon, you may donate your hair to kids in need. Your hair will be made into a wig for a child who has lost hair due to illness, and in exchange, you'll get your hair shampooed, cut, and styled for free. Call to make your appointment. Through Jan. 31. Tuesdays through Thursdays. Avant: 318 Colorado (472-6357), 9901 Capital of TX Hwy. (502-8268).

NEW YEAR'S NIA JAM Co-taught by a group of Nia teachers, this class is an "especially playful" session meant for participants at any level of experience. Arrive early – the class size is limited to 40 people. Noon-1pm. JoyMoves, 2501 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-4440. Free.

the GAY place

BY KATE X MESSER AND KATE GETTY

★ **ARARAT RISING** Straight from Kelly's mouth: "Don't know if you've ever celebrated a New Year's with Ararat [Getty has, somehow ending the night with two random full bottles of Brut], but we know how to get down." Believe us. Kelly ain't no liar. And the night she and the rest of the original **Rat Pack** have planned for us this day of ball-droppage is set to have four courses of buffet sizzles, an organic coffee bar from **Hot Mama's**, and music by **Righteous Tidings**. Complimentary airbrush body art and tarot readings, drag kings throwing down, and, as always, some bellies dancing. Hot. Oh and BYOB, fool. Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm-2am. Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 474-TIX\$. \$50.

TWELVE STEP PROGRAM It's that time of year again, when you remember how truly insane hanging out with your family can make you. (No wonder bars do so well this season.) Celebrating that madness is Rob Nash's **Twelve Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas**, laughing at the truth in family bonding, finding some meaning in it all. Thu.-Sun., Dec. 27-30, 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30 (pick your price). vortex@vortexrep.org, www.vortexrep.org.

★ **MYSACE IS FOR QUEERS** Queers named **Gay Place**. Yup. We are on the **MySpace**, unabashed in our quest to crack 2,999. (Who said "ho"?) We'd be proud to have you as our friend. Check our occasional specially themed top friends, and see if you make the cut. gayplace@austinchronicle.com, www.myspace.com/gayplace.

LADIES OF THE EIGHTIES Wow. Kissing booth. Wow. Eighties costume contest. Wow. **DJ Pumpkin Spice** spinning tunes from women from, you guessed it, the same era of big hair and hypercolor. (Or aren't they both all of the sudden back in style?) Sponsored by **Equality Texas**, with breakdancing and that smoky goth bar filled to the brim with ladies shaking it. To the Eighties. Thu., Jan. 10, 9:30pm. Elysium, 705 Red River, 478-2979. \$10 (\$8, advance). www.eqfed.org/eqtx.

SCHIZOPHRENIC BUT SOCIAL Sure, these cats have had some trouble nailing down a name and entity, but here we have it. 'Twas **De'or**, now it's

KISS!, a retro dance party for all those who boogie, every Friday with the Crystal Princess herself on the spin, **DJ PJ Ragsworth**. No Cover if you're old enough to booze, hound. Fridays, 9pm. The Cockpit Club, 113 San Jacinto, 457-8010. 9pm. www.myspace.com/deorparty.

★ **CREATIVE SPIRIT UCC** Rip it up with this radically inclusive, progressive new community of faith. Kickoff service just in time for the holidays! No hellfire. No brimstone. Just music, art, and inspiration. Can I get an amen? Saturdays, 5pm. Austin City Church, 1700 S. Lamar, 527-4455. cheatham@austin.rr.com, www.creativespiritucc.info.

CAGED BIRDS SING Just in time to make all our holiday cares melt away, **Rob Faubion** and his lovely "ladies" bring back **La Cage** drag nights, voted the Best Female Impersonation Show in Texas. Thank goodness. Chers and Whitney's and Barbras done up with ridiculous flair. Sundays are baaaaaaack. Sundays, 9:30 & 11:30pm. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

NEW TO TOWN? JUST VISITING? WHERE THE QUEERS AT? Welcome to Austin! Don't know where to go, you big beautiful queer? Let our Austin Chronicle GAYTX Fun Guide assist you. Updated, and more, more, more. How do you like it, baby? austinchronicle.com/gaytx.

BLACK & SILVER BALL We went to the website. That's all it said. Yup. Black & Silver. Mon., Dec. 31. Oilcan Harry's, 211 W. Fourth, 320-8823.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASQUERADE BALL (See New Year's Eve Guide, p.60.) Mon., Dec. 31, 10pm-3am. Rain on 4th, 217 W. Fourth, 494-1150. www.rainon4th.com.

BLOGGIN' IN A GAY PLACE STYLE C'mon to our cybersphere, you hottie cuties, you, and come comment on what we do. Yup. We blog. True dat. Come comment. Maybe win yourself a nice unicorn or T-shirt or something. Or go naked for all we care. 454-5766. gayplace@austinchronicle.com, austinchronicle.com/gayplaceblog.

CHECK THIS SPACE NEXT WEEK for Gay Place's Top 10 Queer Doin's 2007 as we count down the best and not of aught seven. austinchronicle.com/gayplace.

For more gay stuff, see Calendar online: austinchronicle.com. Send gay bits to gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

★ STAR in
Give the coolest
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Voted Austin Chronicle
Best of Austin
2005, 2006, 2007

THE SCORE

SPORTS
BLOG

On College Hoops 2K8:

"The graphics are as stunning as the sunset, the gameplay is custard-smooth, and the basketball simulation is as near-accurate as an arrow shot from Ted Nugent's bow." — Mark Fagan

CHRONICLE

READ MORE AND COMMENT: austinchronicle.com/sports.



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 Joy Moves

2501 S. Capital of Texas Hwy, Austin, TX www.joymoves.com

Ongoing Events

FREE HOUSECLEANING FOR WOMEN WITH CANCER The last thing you wanna do when you don't feel well is clean the house ... or live in a dirty one. Luckily, Texas-based nonprofit Cleaning for a Reason provides professional housecleaning services for women undergoing cancer treatment. Each patient qualifies for three free cleanings. See www.welcometohomecleaning.com for details. 335-0862. slbutza@yahoo.com.

REVEALING CAPITOL TREASURES The Capitol Visitors Center's newest exhibit features artifacts found during archaeological digs on the Capitol grounds, historic artwork and photos of the building, the original tools used to place the Goddess of Liberty atop the dome, and other Capitol curiosities. *Through Jan. 27. Capitol Visitors Center, 112 E. 11th, 305-8400. www.texascapitolvisitorscenter.com.*

IN CITIZEN'S GARB: SOUTHERN PLAINS NATIVE AMERICANS, 1889-1891 explores how life changed in the late 1800s for the Kiowa and Comanche tribes that were forced by the U.S. government to adopt Euro-American lifestyles. *Through Jan. 6. Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, 1800 Congress, 936-8746. \$5.50 (\$4.50, seniors/military; \$3, kids ages 5-18). www.thestoryoftexas.com.*

THERMAL UNDERWEAR DRIVE It doesn't take much to help Austin's homeless stay warm this winter. One \$10 donation is enough to outfit someone with a thermal top and pair of pants this winter. To donate, call 796-4366, or send your check to *House the Homeless Inc., PO Box 2312, Austin, 78768. www.housethehomeless.org.*

BILLS, BILLS, BILLS: JOHNSON AS MAJORITY LEADER The LBJ Museum's newest exhibit highlights some of the most interesting aspects of Lyndon Johnson's career and personality, including his pivotal influence on the role of Senate majority leader, his notorious powers of persuasion (known as the "Johnson treatment"), and his relationship to civil rights legislation, labor reform, and more. Actor Michael Stuart plays a 1950s Johnson in this exhibit, so be sure stop by the U.S. Senate Chamber replica for a conversation with Johnson as a senator. *Through May 26. Daily, 9am-5pm. LBJ Library & Museum, 2313 Red River, 721-0216. Free. www.lbjlib.utexas.edu.*

SCHLOTZSKY'S BUN RUN T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST You could be the one who decides what 5,000 runners will be wearing in Schlotzsky's Bun Run 5K this spring – and win \$1,000 while you're at it. You may submit up to three designs; you must be at least 13 years old to participate. Mail entries to: *Schlotzsky's 2008 Bun Run T-Shirt Design Contest, 301 Congress #100, Austin, TX 78701. Deadline: Jan. 15. www.bunrun.com.*

SHERIFF'S CITIZENS' ACADEMY is recruiting the next batch of students for the 13-week class kicking off Feb. 12. Students will get a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to work for the Travis Co. Sheriff's Office. Call or e-mail for details. *Tuesdays, 6:45-10pm. 854-4989. vincente.galloway@co.travis.tx.us.*

FREE COUNSELING FOR VETERANS The Samaritan Counseling Center offers free counseling services to those who've served in Afghanistan or Iraq, as well as to the parents, children, siblings, spouses, and partners of servicemen and women. Call or e-mail for details. *Samaritan Counseling Center, 5425-A Burnet Rd., 451-7337. hopeforheroes@samaritan-center.org. www.samaritan-center.org.*

WINE & FOOD FOUNDATION GRANT Any Texas business, resident, or organization involved with an educational project or program dealing with the culinary and viticulture arts is eligible to apply for \$25,000 in grant money through the Wine & Food Foundation. Past winners have included the Sustainable Food Center and KLRU-TV. See www.winefoodfoundation.org for application and details. *Deadline: Feb. 15.*

VALLEY LAND FUND WILDLIFE PHOTO CONTEST With 98% of Texas' lands privately owned, the future of the state's wildlife lies, for better or worse, in the hands of property owners. This annual photo competition rewards these environmental stewards for good behavior by pairing them with photographers who will capture on film the natural beauty of their wildlife-friendly properties. Participants are eligible to win \$130,000 in prizes. See www.valleylandfund.com for details. *Registration: Jan. 1-Feb. 29.*

SPANISH A TU GUSTO Sign up now for these adult conversational Spanish classes beginning mid-January. *Intermediate: Fridays, 5:30-7:30pm, Jan. 18-March 28; beginners: Saturdays, Jan. 19-March 29, noon-2pm. Downtown, private residence. \$275. june@spanishatugusto.com, www.spanishatugusto.com.*

THE BIRTHDAY WAGON This local nonprofit organizes birthday parties for children who live in Austin area shelters. See www.thebirthdaywagon.org if you'd like to volunteer, make a tax-deductable donation, or become a sponsor.

COATS FOR CUBS is accepting real fur – be it a coat, trim, or other type of clothing – to be used as bedding for orphaned or injured wildlife. From now till Earth Day (*April 22*) you may drop off your furs at Buffalo Exchange (just tell them it's for Coats for Cubs). *Buffalo Exchange, 2904 Guadalupe, 480-9925. www.humanesociety.org/coatsforcubs.*

GAME OVER VIDEOGAMES just opened its brand-new in-store video-game museum featuring classic gaming posters, consoles spanning the past three decades, and more. Stop by, play some Atari, and get in touch with your inner 7-year-old. *Mon.-Sat., 11am-8pm; Sun., 11am-6pm. Game Over, 911 W. Anderson #112, 454-GAME. www.gameovervideogames.com.*

YELLOW BIKE PROJECT ... EN ESPAÑOL! The Yellow Bike Project – which, among other things, holds bike-repair workshops, donates bicycles to area kids, and releases free yellow bikes into the wild for anyone who needs them – has launched a new Spanish-language version of their website, which you should check out, here: www.austinyellowbike.org/home_esp.htm. You should also drop in on their new bilingual bike-repair shop on *Mondays, 6-10pm, at the Main Shop, 2013 E. 51st.*

OUTDOOR HATHA YOGA Bring your mat for this scenic class, taught daily on the docks overlooking the pond behind the Dougherty Arts Center. *Daily, noon-1pm. Meet in the park behind Dougherty Arts Center. Donations accepted (10% goes to Kiva.org to help entrepreneurial projects in developing countries). onetoneyoga@gmail.com.*

CANCER CONNECTION seeks cancer survivors and loved ones who are interested in providing emotional support to patients currently battling the disease. The next orientation session is *Fri.-Sat., Jan. 25-26. Details at www.thecancerconnection.org. 342-0233.*

★ **DO GOOD DELI** Next time you need a sandwich, try calling the Do Good Deli. Not only will they bring you your sandwich, but they'll give 100% of the proceeds to Caritas of Austin to help fight the good fight against poverty – and bad sandwiches. Just order online, by phone, or by fax. (Group orders only; \$20 minimum.) *Downtown, I-35 to Lamar & Cesar Chavez to 12th, 394-7945. www.dogooddeli.com.*

PLAYING THROUGH

I should have known that I wouldn't be seeing any fist pu mps. I mean, his favorite professional golfer is **Retief Goosen**. The famously phlegmatic South African can win the U.S. Open, and the photographers are lucky to capture a wry smile in celebration. That's not quite the case with **Brenden Redfern**. The Westlake High School freshman is a little fuzzy on what it was like when, at 14, he became the youngest player ever to win the Firecracker Open, out at Lions Municipal Golf Course last summer (**Ben Crenshaw** won the event at 17), but he thinks there might have been a fist pump or two along the way. Like after he drained a 30-foot putt on the last hole to get into a playoff: "I was shaking, kind of in a daze," he said. "It was pretty historical." But that's about all you'll get out of Brenden. What makes him an extraordinary golfer is also what makes him an under-monstrative interview. There's nothing hectic or harried about the kid. On and off the course, he's as cool as they come, taking his abundant talent as a given.

"I know a lot of guys can hit the ball as good as I can," says Brenden, who will be playing this weekend at the Texas Junior Golf Tour Holiday Classic, at the Barton Creek Resort & Spa. "But what separates great golfers from really good golfers is the mental game – the ability to leave bad shots behind, to stay in the present. I've never really had to work at that aspect of the game. It just kind of comes naturally to me." I should say so. When Brenden was 9, he broke par on a regulation course. At 11, he was playing from the back tees. At 12, he shot a 63 at the Barton Creek Fazio Foothills course, one more than the course record in a round that included 10 birdies. He could count them up, but off the top of his head, he's not sure how many tournaments he's won. Of course, the Hills are full of can't-miss juniors. At any course you go to, public or private, there are always a handful of teenage prodigies putting the men to shame. But then something mysterious happens. One minute they're pounding the ball a mile, destined for the PGA Tour; the next they're gone, never really to be heard from again. Twenty years later, they're still playing and still frighteningly good. But instead of tipping his hat to the gallery at Augusta, that can't-miss junior is now on his cell phone between holes, talking business to some guy named Bobby. I don't think Brenden is going to be that guy. To look at him, you don't see an awesome physical specimen (**Tiger Woods** aside, in golf you never do), but you do feel a definite difference. It's a feeling I had the first time I saw **Mia Hamm** play soccer or **Roger Federer** play tennis – that they're operating on a different frequency than the rest of us. Tune in to it, and Brenden's promise starts to come through loud and clear.



BY THOMAS HACKETT
Brenden Redfern
JOHN ANDERSON

Sports

BY MARK FAGAN

THE HOME TEAMS

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Hastings College: *Sat., Dec. 29, 3pm. Vs. East Texas Baptist Univ.: Thu., Jan. 3, 7:30pm. Women's Basketball* Vs. Concordia Ann Arbor: *Sat., Dec. 29, 1pm. Vs. East Texas Baptist University: Thu., Jan. 3, 5:30pm. athletics.concordia.edu.*

ST. EDWARD'S UNIVERSITY Men's Basketball Vs. Tarleton State: *Sat., Dec. 29, 3:30pm. Vs. Texas A&M-Commerce: Sat., Dec. 30, 3:30pm. Vs. Huston-Tillotson: Thu., Jan. 3, 7:30pm. St. Edward's RCC. \$5 (\$3 seniors/students; \$1, under 12). www.stedwards.edu/athletic/athletic.htm.*

AUSTIN TOROS For more on the Toros see austinchronicle.com/sports. Vs. Tulsa: *Thu.-Fri., Dec. 27-28, 7pm. Austin Convention Center, 500 E. Cesar Chavez. \$8-23. www.nba.com/dleague/austin.*

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS Men's Basketball Vs. Wisconsin: *Sat., Dec. 29, 11am. Vs. TCU: Wed., Jan. 2, 4pm. Frank Erwin Center, 1701 Red River. www.texasports.com.*

SOUTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY Women's Basketball Vs. North Central: *Fri., Dec. 28, 5pm. Vs. Hardin-Simmons/Buena Vista: Sat., Dec. 29, TBA. southwesternpirates.csvt.com.*

RECREATION & FITNESS

AUSTIN UNITED CAPITAL SOCCER CLUB has open registration for the spring 2008 season going on now. Apply online or at the main office, 5716 Hwy. 290 W. #212 (Oak Acres Shopping Center), 899-1049. www.austinsoccer.org.

HOLIDAY BREAK GOLF CAMP This three-day camp divides the kids into groups by age and ability to help them focus on the skills they'll need to reach their golfing goals. Campers will need to bring a sack lunch each day. Golf fees and a snack included in the cost. *Wed.-Fri., Jan. 2-4, 9am-3pm. Harvey Penick Golf Campus, 5501 Ed Bluestein Blvd., 732-0380 x204. \$160. www.firstteeaustin.org/holidaycamp.*

ACC GOLF LESSONS If you have resolved to learn how to play some golf in the new year, ACC has got you covered. No experience necessary for these classes forming in January and February for Saturday and weekday courses. Register online or by calling 223-7542. \$82. www.austinctc.com/ce.

ADULT KICKBALL LEAGUE REGISTRATION The Austin Recreation Center invites all to come out and have a good time kickin' the ball around. Registration is for teams only. Eight games. *Registration: Jan. 3-Feb. 5. Season begins the week of Feb. 11. Games played Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday nights. Gillis Park, 2526 Durwood, 476-5662. \$195/team. www.leaguellineup.com/cityofaustinkickball.*

RUNS, WALKS, & RIDES



★ **POLAR BEAR SWIM** Start the new year off with this mental and physical challenge open to youth 15-17 years old and adults 18 and older. Try the Dash (a 200-meter, open-water swimming race) or the Double Crossing (an open-water swimming race, less than a mile, across Lake Travis and back). American Swimming Association open-water rules apply. All entrants must be 2008 ASA members in good standing. *Tue., Jan. 1, 11:30am. Mansfield Dam Park, Lake Travis, 327-1280. \$50. www.americanswimmingassociation.com.*

World football went into its **holiday break** this week, as just about everyone outside Britain takes a midwinter break of two to six weeks; there were key results in several Euro leagues on the last full weekend of 2007. (The Brits, of course, just keep playing – a heavy schedule, in fact, through the holiday season.)

Real Madrid won 1-0 at Barcelona, to open a 7-point lead over their Catalan rivals... **Inter Milan** beat city rival AC Milan, 2-1, and opened a 7-point league lead... Surprise French contenders **Nancy Lorraine** got an 87th-minute goal to draw with leaders **Lyon** and stay within striking distance of the seven-time defending champs... Little surprise that Glasgow's **Celtic** and **Rangers** have begun to distance themselves from the pack in Scotland; their Jan. 2 derby will establish a front-runner heading into the second half... **Manchester United** took over the top spot in England in the traditional slate of Boxing Day games, passing **Arsenal**, who has begun to falter lately after a brilliant start. – Nick Barbaro

Soccer WATCH

AUSTIN FIREFIGHTERS 2008 WOMEN'S CALENDAR It's here. It's hot. And it's for a good cause. Let Austin's female firefighters keep you on schedule this year as they grace the pages of this 2008 calendar benefiting the **Austin Firefighters' Fund**. 441-7572. \$15. austinfirefightersfund@yahoo.com, www.austinfirefighterscalendar.com.

DOG FENCE FUND provides vouchers to Austin families who can't afford to comply with the new ordinance prohibiting dog-chaining, a practice considered dangerous for pets and people. The vouchers allow families to buy the materials necessary for building fenced enclosures for their pets. If you'd like to donate to the fund to help families keep their pets, send checks to: *Austin Community Foundation, PO Box 5159, Austin, 78763*. Chain Free Austin is also accepting donations of new and gently used dog houses; call 923-8881 for details. www.chainfreeaustin.org.

★ **RECYCLE YOUR CHRISTMAS TREE!** Those of you who are Pay-as-You-Throw customers may leave your Christmas trees (minus the stand and ornaments) curbside on your yard trimming/recycling pickup days. Those of you who are *not* Pay-as-You-Throw customers may still recycle your trees: just drop them off at Zilker Park, 2100 Barton Springs Rd. (follow the signs to the polo fields); *Sun., Dec. 30, and Sat.-Sun., Jan. 5-6, 10am-4pm*. All trees will be ground into mulch to be given away free later in January. See www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/christmastree.htm for details.

★ **CHARTER REVISION SURVEY** The city of Austin Charter Revision Committee seeks your input regarding possible revisions of how City Council elections are conducted. Right now, council members are elected at-large, which means that all residents vote for all council seats. The

committee is considering a single-member-district scenario in which residents will vote only for the seat that represents their area of the city. Go to www.cityofaustin.org/charter to let the committee know which system you'd prefer. *Deadline: Jan. 23.*

SIMS VOLUNTEERS ROCK! This new program needs dedicated volunteers to help get the word out about the SIMS Foundation's work providing mental-health services to Austin musicians. You'll be going to music events or working in the office. Call or e-mail if you're interested. 791-4929. volunteerinfo@simsfoundation.org, www.simsfoundation.org.

THIS WEEK ONLY

RIVER OF LIGHTS The trail along the Colorado River is lit with holiday displays and filled with music every night this holiday season. *Through Dec. 31. Fisherman's Park to Ferry Park, Bastrop. Free (gifts for the Pink Santa Program are welcome).* www.bastropchamber.com.

SANTA'S RANCH TRAIL OF LIGHTS Drive-through display features more than 1.5 million lights along a Christmas trail winding through 10 acres of holiday displays, including 300 different characters and 45 holiday scenes. *Through Dec. 30. Sun.-Thu., 6-10pm; Fri.-Sat., 6-11pm. Santa's Ranch, 9561 N. I-35, New Braunfels, 830/743-1293. \$17 per vehicle (\$35, season pass).* www.santasranch.net.

★ **WHO DESERVES A MADI?** MADIs are for those African-American Austinites who've done the most for the community in any area from entrepreneurship and politics to education, religion, and sports. Who do you know who deserves a MADI? You have till *Mon., Dec. 31*, to visit www.austinmadis.com and nominate them. .

Thursday 03

ECLECTIC VEGETARIAN Central Market chef Mark Holom shares tasty recipes full of healthy veggies, fruits, and grains today, including marinated asparagus salad, grilled peppers and tofu, crispy potatoes in sesame-tamari sauce, and more. 6:30-9pm. *Central Market North, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. \$40.*

ONE-HIT WONDERS SING-ALONG: VOL. 2 Billy Ray Cyrus. The Spin Doctors. Deee-lite. Need we say more? Well, maybe one more thing: Be prepared to be hoarse by the end of the show. 9:45 & 11:55pm. *Alamo Drafthouse at the Ritz, 320 E. Sixth, 476-1320. \$12.*

HATHA YOGA WITH PAMELA *Fri., Dec. 28 & Wed.-Thu., Jan. 2-3, 8-9am. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free, with cafe purchase.*

LOCKS OF LOVE HAIR DRIVE (See Tuesday.)

RECOVERY INC. MEETINGS
(See Thursday 12/27.)

SPECIAL SCREENINGS (See Film Listings.)
Tourist Trap @ Alamo Ritz, 12mid

MUSIC (See Music Listings.)
Emo's Free Week Part 1 *Emo's*
The Service Industry, the Ideals *Room 710*
Suzanna Choffel, Jade Day *Hole in the Wall*

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 11 issue is Monday, Dec. 31.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Kate X Messer or Kate Getty (The Gay Place):
gayplace@austinchronicle.com.

Mark Fagan (Sports): gameplans@austinchronicle.com.

Nora Ankrum (everything else): calendar@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor, 454-5766 or brenner@austinchronicle.com.



CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB

JOE ROGAN

DEC. 30 & NYE!

*New Year's Eve Show:
8pm & 10:30pm shows!
Both shows ticket price
includes a pass for two to
return in 2008, the late
show also includes party
favors, a champagne toast,
& a light appetizer buffet.
\$30/\$60.*

467-2333 WWW.CAPCITYCOMEDY.COM 8120 RESEARCH BLVD.

To sign up for a chance to win a pass to this screening, go to austinchronicle.com/contests by 4pm, Tuesday, January 1st

No purchase necessary. Passes are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Seating is limited. Passes do not guarantee admission.

Special ADVANCE Screening Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:30pm



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In Theaters Friday, Jan. 11

austinchronicle.com/contests

Plaid Tidings

Zachary Scott Theatre Center Groten Stage, through Dec. 30

Running time: 2 hr.

When it comes to *Plaid Tidings*, “White Christmas” isn’t just about the snow. Like its predecessor, the phenomenally successful revue *Forever Plaid*, this seasonal sequel celebrates that midcentury moment when Caucasian culture in the U.S. seemed to reach its zenith. It was the era of Ozzie and Harriet and their neighborly ilk in the boob-tube ’burbs, *Father Knows Best* and *The Donna Reed Show* and Ward and June and the Cleaver boys, while on the pop charts, it was the heyday of Doris Day, Patti Page, Andy Williams, and the like, serving up music as smooth, wholesome, and homogenized as the milk being poured at every suburban dinner table across the land. So when the quartet known as the Plaids starts dipping into the holiday hits catalog, you can be sure that their renditions will boast the creamy, well, whiteness of those “golden days of yore.”

That in itself may be enough to let you know whether *Plaid Tidings* is your cup of holiday cheer. But it’s worth noting that Stuart Ross, creator of the *Plaid* shows, knows how that era’s wholesomeness, not to mention its milky pallor, looks 50 years on, especially in a society that’s considerably more colorful, culturally speaking, as well as more worldly and spiky with irony to boot. The *Plaid* revues’ saving grace is their ability to laugh at the very culture that they are celebrating, to make light of its syrupy sentiments and vanilla veneer. When *Plaid Tidings* pays tribute to the calypso craze of the Fifties, it knows how laughable that Caribbean patois sounds coming out of those Midwestern mouths. And it takes its reverence for that period’s dreamy singers to an absurd extreme, with the Plaids genuflecting before the spotless cardigan of Perry Como as if it were the Shroud of Turin.

But even as the shows acknowledge the datedness of this pop-culture fluff, they’re able to root out from under its candy-coating and hokey pose of innocence something in the music that still catches our ear. Most of the songs themselves, and certainly their performances, were attentive to melody, to the beauty of music and its ability to charm. Put simply, they’re pretty, and when they’re performed with voices melding in harmony – the Plaids’ specialty – they’re prettier still. Which is something that’s sometimes hard to come by in our frantic, jangling age. These songs soothe. They comfort. Which we need.

That’s why Ross brought his four hapless harmonizers back down from on high for this yuletide follow-up. Following 9/11, Ross felt that we all could use a little Christmas, right this very minute, and so resurrected the foursome (whose lives, you may recall, were cut short when their convertible was smashed by a bus full of Catholic schoolgirls on their way to see the Beatles) for one more show they never got to perform in life *after* the one they got to do



in *Forever Plaid*. Ross works a tad too hard at justifying the Plaids’ second coming, getting the guys all angsty over the reasons for their return to earth – a move that undercuts the soothing smoothness of the music, and unnecessarily – but once they work it out – it’s just to do a holiday show, right? – *Plaid Tidings* settles into an entertaining groove on par with the original.

The show dies and lives, so to speak, with the guys who play Sparky, Frankie, Jinx, and Smudge, and the Zachary Scott Theatre Center production is fortunate to have four performers – William Akey, Jon-Michael Hamman, Kevin Farr, and Zach Thompson – whose individual voices not only flow like the requisite cream but mesh in sumptuous – dare I say heavenly? – harmony. Allen Robertson’s musical direction draws the most out of the singers, and, backed by Austin Haller’s light-fingered piano accompaniment and Brad Shelton’s deft bass work, these Plaids are a blessing on the ears. They’re fun for the eyes, too, what with Robin Lewis’ amusing dance moves and bright direction of the comic bits. (The Plaids’ abrupt transformation into a Nineties boy band for “Twuz tha Nite B4 Xmas” is a highlight.) In short, what we get here is just what’s wanted at this time of year: *Tidings* of comfort and joy.

– Robert Faires

Theatre

OPENING

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN Are you kidding? It’s all around you! (Or you can get the lowdown from our complete schedule of events on p.32.) *Mon., Dec. 31. All over town.*

CLOSING

12 STEPS TO A MORE DYSFUNCTIONAL CHRISTMAS

is Rob Nash’s hilarious one-man multi-character skewering of yuletide mania and a few of its especially hapless participants. Join the entire Smith family (as familiar as your own but perhaps a smidgen more fucked up) as

◀ Rob Nash goes multiple personality disorder with holiday glee in his *12 Steps to a More Dysfunctional Christmas* at the Vortex.



they struggle through the year-end shenanigans. Recommended – definitely – to take the sugary edge off your holiday season. *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sun., 8pm. The Vortex, 2307 Manor Rd., 478-5282. \$10-30. www.vortexrep.org.*

ROCKIN’ CHRISTMAS PARTY ZACH’s annual, wintertime, Motown-inflected musical spectacular comes a-jingling and a-tinseling and a-sha-la-la-ing back to the stage, with the Beehive Girls and friends decked out in holiday finest and belting tunes fit to melt even the Grinch’s permanent heart. It’s the Austin yuletide tradition that gets you dancing in the aisles, directed by Dave “Hardworkin’” Steakley. *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups). www.zachscott.com.*

PLAID TIDINGS is Stuart Ross’ holiday-themed sequel to the popular *Forever Plaid*, in which the male counterparts of Zach’s Beehive Girls sing and dance their way through pop-music standards in happy-footed, nostalgia-mining harmony. Tributes to the Rockettes, *The Ed Sullivan Show*, the Chipmunks, Harry Belafonte, and more are performed by the fantastic sweater-vested cast as Austin Haller tickles the yuletide ivories. Directed by Dave “Triple Threat” Steakley, with musical direction by Allen Robertson. (See review above.) *Through Dec. 30. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$38-45 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups). www.zachscott.com.*

ONGOING

MACBETH Holiday season not bloodied enough for you? The Velvet Rut Theatre Company, under the direction of Japhy Fernandes (who also plays the title role), provides a, we reckon, unique look at one of Shakespeare’s darkest creations. *Thu.-Sat., Dec. 27-29; Fri.-Sat., Jan 4-12. All shows at 8pm. Velvet Rut, 1612 E. Seventh, 236-1092. Donations accepted.*

WHEN MORE PIGS FLY is a sequin-bedecked and thoroughly fabulous musical revue featuring more than 120 costumes in 90 minutes and starring some of Austin’s favorite performers. *Through Jan. 12. Thu.-Sat., 8pm. Arts on Real Theatre, 2826 Real (behind Flatbed Press), 472-2788. \$33 (\$25, in advance). www.naughtyaustin.com.*

★ **THE SANTALAND DIARIES** David Sedaris’ ascerbic holiday treat returns to Zach Scott with **Martin Burke** bringing his sharp wit and timing to the role of Crumpet, the disgruntled Macy’s elf. Also featuring the excellent **Meredith McCall** and pianist **Jason Connor**, this is the sort of comedy that’ll turn any coal in your stocking into diamonds. Directed by Dave “What the hell, I’ll go ahead and open three shows at once!” Steakley. *Through Jan. 6. Thu.-Sat., 8pm; Sun., 2:30pm. Zachary Scott Theatre Center, 1510 Toomey, 476-0541. \$33-43 (discounts available for students, seniors, large groups). www.zachscott.com.*

AUDITIONS

LAST OF THE RED HOT LOVERS Start the year off creatively by auditioning for a role in this classic Neil Simon comedy, to be staged in February and March in the soon-to-open Gaslight-Baker Theatre out Lockhart way. They need women, and they need a man, and you’ll do cold readings from the script. Call for appt. *Tue.-Wed., Jan 1-2. 216 S. Main, Lockhart. 512/376-5653.*

HAROLD & MAUDE Recent *Chronicle* cover subject Steve Bilich (see “Two Towers, Six Years, and 16 Millimeters,” Dec. 21) is directing the stage version of this quirky classic, and he’s looking for actors to fill all roles (except Maude’s). So: Harold (around age 19) and other men and women (ages 20-70). *Send e-mail with your phone number for appointment. Bring headshot and résumé. Sat., Dec. 29, 1-5pm. DoubleTree Guest Suites, 303 W. 15th. haroldandmaudeauditions@gmail.com.*

Comedy

IN THE CLUBS

CAP CITY COMEDY CLUB 8120 Research #100, 467-2333. www.capcitycomedy.com.

Joe Rogan: New Year’s Eve and New Year’s Eve Eve Although we ken him more clearly as the host of *Fear Factor* and *NewsRadio*, Rogan’s also a veteran stand-up comedian. Bonus: Monday’s late-show audience gets a midnight Champagne toast, breakfast buffet, and party favors. *Sun.-Mon., Dec. 30-31, 8 & 10:30pm. \$25-65.*

Matt Bearden We once were blind, but now – thanks to Asaf Ronen and his *Sickest Fucking Stories You’ve Ever Heard* – we see. We see, specifically, that Bearden may be one of the funniest coves to ever inhabit this Lone Star State, and so we recommend – and **Zarkos** demands – that you catch his act, especially as it’s fortified with various others of Austin’s top comics. *Dec. 27-29. Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$5.50-44.95.*

Robert Mac He’s on tour from Arizona, he’s won a Comedy Central competition, so we reckon this fellow might be a decent start to your comedy new year. Arizona, right? Yes! *Jan. 2-5. Wed.-Thu., 8pm; Fri.-Sat., 8 & 10:30pm. \$5.50-44.95.*

COLDTOWNE THEATER 4803 Airport. www.coldtowne.com.

Now This Is Improv! Features some of Austin’s best stand-up and (especially) improv: **Parallelogramophonograph**, the cutest improvisers in town, go all Gallic hilarity with a French farce like some retro Molière-conditioner. *Thursdays, 8pm. UpTowne* is ColdTowne’s foray into the scripted world of sketch comedy, searing like old-school SNL when they’re really cookin’. *Fridays, 8pm.*

That Other Paper presents **Punchline**. The popular stand-up showcase continues, fracturing funny bones every weekend. *Fridays, 10pm.* **Stool Pigeon** features a mystery guest in a sort of modified Armando, thus jump-starting the shenanigans that ensue. *Saturdays, 8pm.* **ColdTowne** The mighty house troupe rocks your night with fierce improv as only they can create it, now with **Midnight Society**. *Saturdays, 10pm.*

ESTHER'S POOL 525 E. Sixth, 320-0553. www.estersfollies.com.

Esther's Follies: World Gone Wild The most popular troupe in town returns with their riotous musical send-ups of local and national politics and cultural phenomena, making already hot topics burn with a bright comic intensity, with the incredible and – *ai! ai! ai!* – spicy illusions of master magician **Ray Anderson**. Thrills! Chills! Ripped-from-the-headlines events turned into comedy gold! *Reservations highly recommended. Thu.-Fri, 8pm; Sat., 8 & 10pm. \$20 (discounts available Thursdays & Fridays for seniors, students, military).* Additional \$5 for special reserved seats.

Banana Puddin' Time Tom Booker, comedy impresario from L.A., has moved to Austin and is running this new show at Esther's Pool: A mixture of comedic sketches, improv, stand-up comedy, and silly songs. Austin's most entertaining talents are promised, and you'll get free banana pudding with each paid admission. *Thursdays, 9:30pm. \$9.95.*

THE HIDEOUT THEATRE 617 Congress, 443-3688. www.hideouttheatre.com.

You want some laughs with that? Yes, Austin happily boasts two epicenters of great improv, and this – the *original*, y'might say – is one of them. It's totally Downtown, too, for your sense of humor-and-awe's convenience:

Friday: It's Threer Madness time, with **Massive, Midnight Society, and Skeeter and Sweaty**. *8pm. \$10.* Then you've got a Double Barrel waiting for you, featuring the **Available Cupholders** and **Parallelogramophonograph**. *10pm. \$10.*

Saturday: Y'know, as of press time we're not precisely sure *what's* happening here this last Saturday of the year. But we do know that **Improvised Shakespeare's** coming up *next* Saturday and will likely be one hell of a Bardic hoot. *8pm. \$10.* **Maestro** is a fierce, multipartite battle for supremacy among improvisers, scored by *you*, the audience. *Highly recommended. 10pm. \$10.*

VELVEETA ROOM 521 E. Sixth, 469-9116. www.thevelveetaroom.com.

J.R. Brow This finalist in San Francisco's prestigious International Comedy Competition *started out* at the Velveeta, oh, a bunch of years ago. And now he's returned – locked and loaded, rough and ready, various other alliterative dualities – to headline the cheesy joint while exploring topics ranging from Columbine to Donkey Kong to the price of toad liquor in Buda. **Howard Beecher** and **Mike Creed** open. *Fri.-Sat., Dec. 28-29, 9:30 & 11:30pm. \$5.*

Open Mic Night, God Help Us All These are your would-be comedic neighbors, three minutes at a time: Love them; fear them. This week's host: **Mike Creed**. *Thursdays, 10pm.*

BUT WAIT – THERE'S MORE!

EGO'STRIP All hail the new improv venue in town, featuring a supergroup hand-picked by the Frank Mills' own **Dave Buckman**. They'll amaze you with long-form work, then lead the audience in improv games, right there in one of the city's favorite watering holes. Huzzah! *Wednesdays, 9-10:30pm.* *Ego's, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091. \$5.*

THE DEATH OF A VARIETY SHOW is an exquisite corpse of a production: improv, theatre, music, and poetry – with each piece inspired by the piece that came before it – now with scenes written by the president of the Czech Republic. Presented by the Polite Society's Michael Ferstenfeld and his talented pallies. *Sat., Dec. 29, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688. \$7-70.* www.hideouttheatre.com.

SAME YEAR'S EVE SHOW AND PARTY AT THE HIDEOUT On Sunday, Dec. 30, there's only one place to see improv comedy in Austin – because every improviser in the city is going to be at the Hideout Theatre for this wildass, joyously unfettered, tear-the-old-year-down celebration. Improv games, scenes, long-form, and musical stories – followed by a party as only the Austin Improv Collective can host. *Sun., Dec. 30, 8pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 443-3688.* www.hideouttheatre.com.

GAG REFLEX NEW YEAR'S EVE COMEDY BASH The veteran Austin sketch comedy troupe brings its classic holiday sketches and a bunch of brand-new material to the Hyde Park stage so you can welcome the new year with some belly laughs. The early show includes beer and wine; the late show's a year-end celebration with Champagne, door prizes, and hot Mangia pizza. Previous incarnations of this event have been sold out, so you might wanna make reservations early. *Mon., Dec. 31, 7 & 10pm. Hyde Park Theatre, 511 W. 43rd, 731-3945. \$20 (early show); \$40 (or \$75 per couple, late show).* www.gagplanet.com.

Dance

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN Are you kidding? It's all around you! (Or you can get the lowdown from our complete schedule of events on p.32.) *Mon., Dec. 31. All over town.*

THE MONARCH NEW YEAR'S BALL As if headlining act Grupo Fantasma wasn't enough to lure you to this *movimiento popular*, also on this New Year's Eve bill is Lannaya African Drum & Dance and the Austin Samba School Brazilian Batucada. *Olé! Mon., Dec. 31, 9pm. Monarch Event Center, 6406 N. I-35 #3100, 371-1711, 888/512-SHOW. \$45 (\$35, in advance).* www.monarcheventcenter.com.

1,001 NIGHTS

ARARAT RISING: NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION Say hello to a new year of possibilities with this traditional "Ararat Experience" – a four-course sizzling buffet accompanied by an organic coffee bar, accompanied by the musical stylings of the Righteous Tidings. The Ararat Dancers perform, featuring Michelle's Pinup-Girl Belly Dance, Zahira with Hands of Fatima, Marysol, Rania, Yamina, and Sahhira the gypsy witch. Also: fire dancers, air-brush body painting, tarot readings, and a midnight Champagne toast (pomegranate!). It's a veritable minifestival! *Mon., Dec. 31, 8pm-12mid (dance show at 10pm). Mercury Hall, 615 Cardinal, 474-TIXS. \$50.* www.austix.com.

TWO LEFT FEET

DANCE INTERNATIONAL Open to all, these ballroom and Latin sessions are a great way to practice or learn new steps. Each night features a variety of dances; each month sees the start of a new, progressive course. No partner necessary. *Sundays, 6-8pm. Dancers Workshop, 183 & Balcones Woods. Weeknights, times vary. Hills Fitness Center, 4615 Bee Caves Rd. 32-DANCE.* www.dancein.org.

ACC DANCE DEPARTMENT: SPRING CLASSES Study dance with some of Austin's finest choreographers and dancers offering challenging and affordable classes in modern, improvisation, and choreography, as well as ballet, jazz, anatomy for dancers, and dance history. Classes start Jan. 14. Registration deadline: *Jan. 9. 223-3384.* www.austinncc.edu/dance.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Twyla of Twyla & the Twilight Star Ensemble offers a variety of belly-dance classes out in Leander. *Class times vary, Mon.-Wed., 7:30-9:30pm; Fri., by appt. 971-0188.* www.twylabellydance.com.

BELLY-DANCE CLASSES Learn traditional and classical Egyptian techniques in this fun and fast-paced class. Contact Drakon for details. *512/750-7037. \$13 per class; \$66 for six classes.* www.desertpassion.com.

LUCILA DANCE PRODUCTIONS: CLASSES FORMING Classes are forming now in belly dancing (all levels), flamenco, salsa/merengue, hip-hop, creative movement for ages 5-10, and tai chi. *Lucila Dance Studio, 1700 S. Lamar. 416-8800.* www.luciladance.com.

AUSTIN BALLROOM DANCERS ABD sponsors ballroom dancing with DJ-ed music weekly, year-round. *Saturdays, 8-11pm; minilesson, 7:30pm. Austin Recreation Center, 1301 Shoal Creek Blvd., 989-3939.* www.austinballroomdancers.org.

CONTACT IMPROVISATION DANCE JAMS Participants move in and out of contact with one or more people through a common center of gravity. All are welcome. *Tuesdays, 8-10pm; Sundays, 4:30-6pm. Austin Yoga School, 1122-C S. Lamar. \$5.*

SCOTTISH BALLROOM DANCING Learn the ballroom dances of Scotland, lads and lassies: lively jigs and reels and elegant strathspeys; no partner needed, but couples welcome. *Thursdays, 7-8:30pm. Quicksilver Dance Center, 8711 Burnet Rd. Ste. H-100. 327-2869. First class free.*

ESTUDIO FLAMENCO Flamenco dance classes for beginners and intermediates. Handy central loca-

tion to boot. Call for times; private lessons available. *2801 W 45th. 382-1366. \$10 per class.* www.estudioflamenco.com.

MODERN DANCE CLASSES Ellen Bartel of Spank Dance Company leads a series of classes in modern dance (all levels). *Times and prices vary, see the Tapestry website for details. Tapestry Dance Co. studios, 2302 Western Trails.* www.tapestry.org.

SOLID CHROME DANCERS Dance in a real honky-tonk! Learn the Texas two-step and Western swing. Singles and couples welcome to these ongoing classes. *Thursdays, 8pm. Broken Spoke, 3201 S. Lamar, 417-7383. \$8.* www.myspace.com/solidchromedancers.

SCANDINAVIAN DANCING Turning and improvised couple dancing for beginning to advanced dancers. No partners needed; wear slick-soled shoes. *Thursdays, 7:30-9:45pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 4700 Grover, 454-0598. \$3.* www.austinscandi.org.

AUSTIN BARN DANCERS: CONTRA DANCE With live music. *Wednesdays, 7:30pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 453-4225. \$3.* www.ci.austin.tx.us.

NIA CLASSES The Nia Technique is a high-powered energizing workout inspired by dance, martial arts, and healing arts. The first class is free. *Mon. & Fri., 9:30-10:30am; Mon. & Thu., 6-7pm; Sat., 10:30am. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 922-1581. \$10 each class, discounts available.* www.ci.austin.tx.us.

AUSTIN INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS Start out a fun evening learning a variety of couples and line dances from around the world before giving it a whirl during the open dance session. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. *Saturdays, 7:30pm (lessons); open dance 8:15-11pm. Hancock Recreation Center, 811 E. 41st, 481-9362. \$5.* www.aifd.cc.

AUSTIN GAY/LESBIAN SALSA GROUP Welcome this free group that invites gays/lesbians who want to learn (or already know) how to salsa to gather and dance. *Wednesdays. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. Free.* www.groups.yahoo.com/group/austingaysalsa.

FOUR ON THE FLOOR: CLASSES Ongoing classes for various levels of expertise in swing and Lindy Hop culminate in a weekly dance. New classes usually start the first Tuesday of the new month. *Tuesdays, 7pm (classes), 9:30pm (open dance). Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 453-3889. Prices vary.* www.fouronthefloor.com.

AUSTIN SWING SYNDICATE A couple hundred swingers hit the dance floor once a week for DJ-spun sounds of past blasts. A beginners' lesson starts the evening. *Thursdays, 8pm-12mid. Texas Federation of Women's Clubs Ballroom, 2312 San Gabriel, 476-5845. \$4 (\$2, members).* www.austinswingsyndicate.org.



The amazing Steve Lippia channels the Chairman of the Board with the Austin Symphony on Sunday and Monday.



Celtic Christmas at the Cathedral

St. Mary Cathedral, Dec. 20

The spirit behind Austin’s annual Celtic Christmas at the Cathedral is perhaps best captured in words by event producer Donnelle McKaskle: “I am grateful for the pipes, whistles, guitars, accordions, and bouzoukis that strum, thud, tap, and drone out the history of my ancestors. ... I am grateful for the unrepentant Fenian, tireless volunteers, joiners, redheads, blue Santas, and wild Irishmen. ... Winter has come to Waterloo.”

McKaskle and musical director Jeffrey Jones-Ragona ushered in their eclectic celebration of Celtic traditions with the bells of St. Mary Cathedral to settle the packed crowd into a procession of nostalgic tunes by the Silver Thistle Pipes and Drums. After the last notes of “Amazing Grace” hung in the crisp air,

Chris Buckley took to the sanctuary for the haunting “Da Day Dawes,” an ancient pagan fiddle tune played to commemorate the winter solstice. This meld of genres acknowledges a vast variety of Christmas traditions in Celtic history. Depending on the era, region, or its politics, the holiday was greeted as either a solemn ecumenical affair or a reason for revelry and dance. The talents drawn together from the Austin community presented this spectrum in full.

The unofficial emcees were vocalist/button-accordion player Gregory Grene and vocalist/guitarist John Doyle, in from Ireland to join local artist Ed Miller and others in the folk tradition. Highlights included the furious, rollicking “The Open Reel,” Grene’s original song that will appear in the upcoming film *Pride and Glory*, which brought the crowd to rhythmic applause, and Doyle’s “Arthur McBride,” which captured the sardonic melancholy of the oft-performed ballad, his crystal-clear baritone floating through the hushed nave. A special shout-out is due the Fulmore Middle School Chamber Choir, which brought an innocent calm to the Manx lullaby “Arrane Ny Clean.”

Led by Jones-Ragona, the 40 or so voices of the Schola Cantorum wove together eclectic offerings from the Celtic choral canon. From the charming verses of “The Deer’s Cry,” written by St. Patrick himself, to “The Rose of Allandale,” the group’s gorgeous sound and generally strong balance conveyed a lush, sentimental gentility. Not that they couldn’t rock, however, as Jones-Ragona showed with the Cantorum’s women in “Ibhi Abhi Oi!” Written when the British had banned Scottish and Irish national instruments, and musicians responded with “mouth music,” using nonsense to imitate the prohibited instruments, this was a fun, technical piece handled with assurance by the singers. Aided by the strong, earthy vocals of Stephanie Prewitt, the women took the spotlight again for “The Gartan Mother’s Lullaby,” melting the crowd.

It would be a terrible lapse in judgment not to mention the night’s wunderkind performer, Irish dancer David Bologna. A two-time North American champion and currently ranked fifth in the world, Bologna had his name splashed across the program and concert ads. The audience clearly couldn’t wait to see him, as many folks rose to their feet and crowded the aisles for a clear view. Bologna’s two performances, placed at the center of each act, were magical, energetic, and ebullient. In the second, the “hard shoe” dance, the teenager was a one-man percussion section, eliciting oohs and ahs from the crowd.

The dances also offered a chance to loosen the formality of the program. At almost three hours, Celtic Christmas is ambitious for any audience. The producer and musical director deserve accolades for their orchestration of this pageant of talents, which should be a top recommendation for the Austin holiday season.

The night ended with the Schola Cantorum’s performance of “The Parting Glass,” a piece traditionally sung with a gathering of friends at the end of a festive night. I found it odd that, with most of the musicians gathered at the heart of the sanctuary, the Cantorum alone sang – which it did very well but not without a further wish that all the performers would have seized the opportunity to close the night arm in arm. This picky detail notwithstanding, certain audience members, yours truly included, joined the chorus in the final verses:

“But since it has so ordered been by a time to rise and a time to fall/Come fill to me the parting glass, good night and joy be with you all.”

– Michael Kellerman

Visual Arts

EVENTS

FIRST NIGHT AUSTIN Are you kidding? It’s all around you! (Or you can get the lowdown from our complete schedule of events on p.32.) *Mon., Dec. 31. All over town.*

CLOSING

MEXIC-ARTE MUSEUM: FROM REVOLUTION TO RENAISSANCE Following the 1910 revolution, Mexico witnessed an explosion of creativity, exemplified in this show curated by James Oles and featuring the important modern Mexican art collection of Lance and Erika Aaron: works by master artists David Alfaro Siqueiros, Rufino Tamayo, Maria Izquierdo, and Olga Costa. *Through Dec. 31. 419 Congress, 480-9373. [www.mexic-artemuseum.org](#).*

LOTUS GALLERY: FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING New work by Scott Graham. *Through Dec. 29. 1211 W. Sixth, 474-1700. [www.lotusasianart.com](#).*

ONGOING

EYE CONTACT ART showcases the work of Joshua Garcia and others. 12400 Amherst #102, 825-8577. [www.eyeccontactart.com](#).

AUSTIN GALLERIES: 20TH CENTURY MASTERS Original lithographs, etchings, intaglios, and screen prints by Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí, Pablo Picasso, and more. 1219 W. Sixth.

YOUNG LATINO ARTISTS: EMBRACING CHAOS *Through Feb. 23. Mexican American Cultural Center, 600 River, 478-6222. [www.ci.austin.tx.us](#).*

CORONADO STUDIOS The Serie Project, a non-profit Latino arts organization hosted by Coronado Studios, produces, promotes, and exhibits serigraph prints created by diverse artists. 6601 Felix, 385-3591. [www.serieproject.org](#).

MASS GALLERY: HYPERSPECTIVE is an optically and physically immersive installation that “places viewers in a world somewhere between two and three dimensions.” Call for appt. *Through Jan. 5. 916 Springdale, 627-4133. [www.massgallery.org](#).*

HI ART: DIS FUNCTIONAL Art with a purpose or

utility beyond traditional art, that can be used, worn, or employed in some fashion – including a wooden television, handbags, lighting, and more. *Through Jan. 10. 111 E. Hopkins, San Marcos, 512/392-7278. [www.hiarttexas.com](#).*

GALLERY POLLOCK: BILL D. FRANCIS The UT professor emeritus presents his finest Prismacolor works. 2620-C S. Lamar, 804-2667. [www.gallerypollock.com](#).

AMOA: ROY LICHTENSTEIN PRINTS Why, it’s as if one has died and gone to Ben-Day-dot heaven, as the Austin Museum of Art presents this retrospective of work by the master of comic-book appropriation. Whither now, O Fin Fang Foom? *Through Feb. 3. 823 Congress, 495-9224. [www.amoa.org](#).*

ART ALLIANCE AUSTIN + PUMP PROJECT In its second show, Art Alliance Austin has teamed up with Pump Project Art Complex to display the works of local artists at this new location. 315 Congress #100, 610-4211. [www.artallianceaustin.org](#).

ARTAMICI FINE ART GALLERY is featuring work by artists from Argentina, Mexico, Chile, and Peru; paintings by Augustina Rodriguez, Oscar Riquelme, and Pablo Taboada; drawings by Gilberto Ramirez; and metal sculpture by Augusto Brocca. 78 San Marcos, 457-0171. [www.pablotaboadastudio.com](#).

ARTHOUSE: ONE AFTER THE OTHER Florian Slotawa is a Berlin-based conceptual artist who utilizes everyday items and spaces to create temporary sculptural assemblages and installations. *Through Jan. 13. 700 Congress, 453-5312. [www.artthousetexas.org](#).*

AUSTIN ART GLASS This glassblowing studio and gallery offers functional and decorative glass art, as well as glassblowing classes and free demonstrations. 1608 S. Congress, 916-4527. [www.austinnartglass.com](#).

AVENUE GALLERY: THE MANY FACES OF DUNCAN features photographs of the popular Scottish Fold cat belonging to photographer Kip Holm. 1510½ S. Congress, 442-3600. [www.avenuegallerysoco.com](#).

BLANTON MUSEUM OF ART Jorge Macchi: *The Anatomy of Melancholy Through March 16. Mike’s World: Michael Smith & Joshua White Through Dec. 30. Workspace: Paul Ramirez Jonas Through Feb. 3. Jacques Callot Through April 27. Antonio Berni Works on Paper Through Jan. 1. MLK & Congress, 471-7324. [www.blantonmuseum.org](#).*

BLUE MOON GLASSWORKS Unique handmade glass art and jewelry. 5241 N. Lamar, 380-0770. [www.austinbluemoon.com](#).

STATE HISTORY MUSEUM: IN CITIZEN’S GARB features an exhibition on “Southern Plains Native Americans, 1889-1891.” *Through Jan. 6. 1800 Congress, 936-8746. [www.thestoryoftexas.com](#).*

THE CATHEDRAL OF JUNK is approximately 60 tons of junk wired together over 15 years to form intricate towers and rooms in the back yard of a, we guess you might say, average South Austin home. Hours: *Sundays, 11am-2pm, or by appt. 4422 Lareina, 299-7413. [www.keeapausteinweird.com](#).*

D BERMAN GALLERY: HILLEVI BAAR AND STEVE WIMAN Baar’s expertly designed pencil renderings on Mylar and Wiman’s stunning arrangements of found objects are lovely and sufficient to drive the cold winter away. *Through Jan. 12. 1701 Guadalupe, 477-8877. [www.dbermangallery.com](#).*

DAVIS GALLERY: DOUBLE VISION New work by Austin painters David Ohlerking and Chris Chappell. Many of the works are each painter’s unique view of the same landscape scenes. Recommended. *Through Jan. 5. 837 W. 12th, 477-4929.*

DIAZ GALLERY: MIGRATIONS & INTEGRATIONS Scenes with fabric by Stephanie Friedman and mixed-media photography by Heather Harris. *Through Jan. 13. 3507 S. First, 444-0013. [www.diazgallery.com](#).*

DIBONA STUDIO Oil paintings and “sculptural tattoos” by Joyce DiBona. 404 W. Milton, 851-2646.

DOUGHERTY ART CENTER: WOMEN PRINTMAKERS OF AUSTIN 12th annual exhibition of multiple originals! *Through Jan. 7. 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1468. [www.womenprintmakers.com](#).*

ELSE MADSEN GALLERY: GREECE ON FIRE New work by the Painterly Handsomes (Troy Allen, Chris Holloway, Cody Scrogum, and Fred Tabares). *Through Jan. 6. 411 Brazos #99. [www.elsemadsen.com](#).*

FRANCOIS PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY 309-B Bowie, 320-0072.

GALLERY LOMBARDI: XMAS EXPO Local artists exhibit their unique and funny wares and fine art. Recommended for excellent shopping. *Through Jan. 12. 602 W. Seventh Ste. A, 481-1088. [www.gallerylombardi.com](#).*

BROCCA GALLERY 1103 E. Sixth. [www.broccagallery.com](#).

LORA REYNOLDS GALLERY: ROY MCMAKIN “A Breadbox and a Mug, Each Depicted in Sculpture and Photography.” Deceptively simple, simply gorgeous, well worth seeing. *Through Jan. 12. 300 West Ave. #1318, 215-4965. [www.lorareynolds.com](#).*

MITCHIE’S FINE BLACK ART has an eclectic selection of African and African-American artwork and craft items on display. 6406 N. I-35 #2800, 323-6901. [www.mitchie.com](#).

THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL AND ARTIFICIAL EPHEMERATA: GHOSTS Take a curator-led tour of “The Orbs of Ghost Road,” Pepper’s Ghost diorama, ectoplasm from the M. Ravi archives, ghost photos, and other objects on loan from the Austin community. *Call for appt. 1808 Singleton, 320-0566. [www.mnae.org/collection/ghosts.php](#).*

NEW EAST ARTS 1601 E. Fifth #106, 477-9438. [www.diversearts.org](#).

BOLM STUDIOS: ANDY ST. MARTIN St. Martin ends a busy year of exhibits with new paintings and a large suite of expressive pencil drawings, a perfectly proportioned installation, and the Dog Room: three paintings in homage to certain dogs who shall remain nameless. *Through Jan. 7. 5305 Bolm #10, 385-1670.*

SVT GALLERY: 11.07 WORKS In collaboration with their audiences, Peter Tucker and Leona Scull-Hons will stimulate a set of experiences, often at unplanned times with unplanned outcomes. *Through Jan. 5. 2803 Manor Rd., 474-7886. [www.salvagevanguard.org](#).*

SHORELINES GALLERY: SUE KEMP Watercolors from nature. 221 W. Second, 322-9961. [www.shorelinesgalleryaustin.com](#).

WALLY WORKMAN GALLERY: ALICE IN WONDERLAND New works from 45 artists, inspired by Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland*. *Through Jan. 6. 1202-B W. Sixth, 472-7428. [www.wallyworkmangallery.com](#).*

WOMEN & THEIR WORK: PATTERN PATTERN PATTERN Lisa Choinacky and Katherine McQueen have curated an excellent group show for the holiday season. Featured artists include Amanda Barr, Rosemarie Fiore, Germaine Keller, Laura Paulini, Lisa Soloman, Jana Swec, and Shea Little. *Through Jan. 5. 1710 Lavaca, 477-1064. [www.womenandtheirwork.org](#).*

SPACES

DECOLA & EUSEBI GALLERY Stained and leaded glass and mosaics. 701 Tillery Ste. A-11, 389-2266. [www.decola-eusebi.com](#).

FLIPNOTICS: THE VISUAL WOLFY Todd V. Wolfson, photog extraordinaire, presents 13 new works of “musicians, artists, people: beyond candid.” *Flipnotics @ the Triangle, 4600 Guadalupe, 380-0097. [www.flipnotics.com](#).*

GUTTERKITTY STUDIOS: THE AUSTIN FIGURATIVE PROJECT Paintings by some of Austin’s best. 102 Krebs. [ohlerkingpaintings@yahoo.com](#).

ARTWORKS GALLERY Tropical butterflies displayed in plexiboxes designed by G.W. Clark. 1214 W. Sixth, 472-1550.

CENTRAL MARKET: MARIA LYLE Paintings are featured through Dec. 30. 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000. [www.centralmarket.com](#).

CYPRESS GRILL The Creative Arts Society of Austin brings this neighborhood restaurant alive with year-round exhibitions. 4404 W. William Cannon Ste. L, 358-7474. [www.creativeartsociety.org](#).

THE GREEN MUSE The works of J. Lowry Doile. 519 W. Oltorf, 912-7789.

CORNERS OF THE WORLD: INTERNATIONAL CENTER Paintings by Czech Republic-born Marcela Kourkova. *Through Jan. 1. 201 E. Second. [cotwart@gmail.com](#).*

THE GREEN WALL GALLERY Sculptures by Polish-born artist Czeslaw Sornat. *Through Dec. 31. Jerry’s Artarama, 6010 N. I-35. [www.jerrysartarama.com](#).*

LAMBERTS: JOAN MCGUIRE New abstract works on paper. 401 W. Second, 494-1500. [www.lambertsastuin.com](#).

LOVEJOYS: BART FARAR This is an exhibition of new work by Bart Farar, and highly recommended. Come see what brilliance the man’s rendered in watercolor and ink on wood and other surfaces. 604 Neches, 477-1268.

QUATTRO GALLERY: EYE OF THE NEEDLE This annual exhibition and sale is one of the most intriguing shows in Austin. *Through Jan. 15. 12971 Pond Springs Rd., 219-3178. [www.quattrogallery.com](#).*

ROADHOUSE RELICS Vintage neon, carnival banners, and other tributes to U.S. popular culture, by Todd Sanders. 1720 S. First, 442-6366. [www.roadhouserelics.com](#).

ABSTRACTS TO ACORNS Photography by Deana Newcomb. *Through Nov. 3. 101 W. Sixth, 477-7884.*

'Double Vision: Chris Chappell and David Ohlerking'

Davis Gallery, through Jan. 5



In founding the Austin Figurative Project last year, artists Chris Chappell and David Ohlerking raised the profile of traditional painting in Austin. Their Eastside gallery mounts rapid-fire exhibitions of work by member artists, who paint quickly from live models. Two painters working from the same subject can end up with radically different canvases, a circumstance that highlights each artist's particular style. This is the premise behind "Double Vision," Chappell and Ohlerking's two-person show at Davis Gallery.

Take the two paintings of *Third & Chicon*, where Austin Figurative Gallery is located. Both artists paint in oil on Masonite, which gives their work a baseline similarity. But in addition to their common subject matter, the similarities end there.

As is evident throughout the show, green and brown hues – dappled generously with white highlights – dominate Chappell's palette. His dynamic brushwork flows toward a vanishing point located two-thirds up from the bottom of the support, where sky and street meet in a haze of parked cars, asphalt, and yellow-green grass. The effect is

comparable to the blurs of time-lapse photography; longer brushstrokes appear similar to the streaks of light generated by traffic in motion.

A striped crosswalk and a line of telephone poles help us to map Chappell's painting onto Ohlerking's, but the perspective is slightly different. In Ohlerking's painting, we see one less telephone pole and a fire hydrant surrounded by a spit of grass. It's as if the two artists worked side-by-side, slightly altering their respective points of view.

Ohlerking uses heavy outlines that make obvious his influences, including Edvard Munch and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. This technique gives his paintings a jewellike, cloisonné appearance. Brighter colors govern a more limited palette than Chappell's, with blocks of pink, red, and green paint making up most of his streetscape.

The differences between the two paintings of *Third & Chicon* reveal two divergent "visions" and prompt a series of questions fundamental to art and its history: Where does an artist's style come from? What factors condition his peculiar way of viewing the world? And what might make one painter's painting more appealing to a viewer than the other? Here, the last question probably amounts more to personal taste than anything else; this viewer leans toward Ohlerking, but you can decide for yourself.

– Amanda Douberley

SHORELINE GRILL Mixed-media constructions by Joseph Hammer and Randall Reid, with sculpture by George McFarland. Through Jan. 5. 98 San Jacinto, 477-3300. www.shorelinegrill.com.

CREATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

IDEA GALLERY: WOMEN IN THE STUDIOS Space for woman artists will be available at the Tillery Street studio on the first of December. The high energy of the BreadFactory tenants and the command of materials by the women in the studios at IDEA set the tone for an explosion in your work. Contact Deanna Miesche: 699-4811. 921-7744.

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES CALL FOR WORKS National call for public arts projects for the Mexican American Cultural Center with a budget set for \$200,000 including design fees, fabrication, installation, engineer sealed drawings, insurance requirements, and travel. Review complete instructions and application for the RFQ at www.cityofaustin.org/aipp. Deadline: Fri., Jan. 4. 301 W. Second, 974-9314. www.cityofaustin.org/aipp.

AUSTIN FIGURATIVE GALLERY: SELF PORTRAIT Get your work onto a 20-inch-by-16-inch vertical unframed canvas, and you're in the exhibition. Deadline: Feb. 29. 301 Chicon, Unit F, 296-6624. www.austinfigurativegallery.com.

HEARTS FOR TOMA MI CORAZON XVI ARE AVAILABLE NOW! Every year La Peña gives out wooden hearts to school children, artists, dignitaries, celebrities, and anybody who would like one. They're free to decorate them however they wish and, once they are returned, the hearts are sold in a silent auction. The proceeds go to support La Peña's artistic and educational programming. Deadline: Sun., Jan. 20. 227 Congress, 477-6007.

UMLAUF SCULPTURE GARDEN: KIDS' WINTER WORKSHOPS Sculptor to Be for ages 7-11. Wed.-Fri., Jan. 2-4, 9am-noon. 605 Robert E. Lee, 445-5582. \$30 (\$80, for all three days). www.umlaufsculpture.org.

Litera

READINGS, SIGNINGS, AND PERFORMANCES

PEOPLE UNITED features Middle East correspondent Dahr Jamail, author of *Beyond the Green Zone: Dispatches From an Unembedded Journalist in Occupied Iraq*. Allan Campbell hosts, with a weekly commentary from Rahul Mahajan. Fri., Dec. 28, 1pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

ALTERNATIVE RADIO presents Jeremy Scahill, author of *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*, on the privatization of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. David Barsamian hosts. Fri., Dec. 28, 2pm. KOOP Radio 91.7FM. www.koop.org.

TEXAS NAFAS presents *Angels Knocking at the Tavern Door* (part two) with Robert Bly and Coleman Barks. Highly recommended, even if you saw the live performance. Saturdays on Channel 16, ACTV.

WORD/JAZZ The word/jazz performance series presents collaborative spoken word and improvised music, featuring an ever-evolving all-star cast of Austin's best performance poets, musicians, and writers who create live, spontaneous compositions. Harold McMillan's word/jazz low stars include spoken-word standouts Ivanho, Thom the World Poet, Ricardo Acevedo, and others. Tuesdays, 6-8pm. Cafe Mundi, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634.

WRITING/BOOK GROUPS

SHAKES ALOUD! is a fun exploration of the Bard. People of all ages are welcome to this ongoing weekly reading group offered by Austin Shakespeare and moderated by Melinda Hall. Sundays, 5-7pm. ACoT Headquarters, 701 Tillery. \$5 each night. www.austinsakespeare.org.

PLAN B POETRY Austin formalist-leaning poet seeks to organize a workshop with a stable and small membership, to begin meeting in January. Dana Gioia's term "postmodern classicism" captures the spirit for which she aims. Serious poets with a nonexclusive commitment to form, especially those on the non- or recovering-MFA track, are invited to send inquiries to Rebecca via e-mail. oblquus@aol.com.

LAW OF ATTRACTION GROUP discusses the principals in *The Law of Attraction* by Esther and Jerry Hicks, and other such books. Saturdays, 9am. Barnes & Noble Westlake, 701 Capital of TX Hwy. S., 328-3652.

AUSTIN WRITER'S BLOCK A mutually supportive writing group. Also: writing exercises. Tuesdays, 4:30-6:30pm. La Madeleine, 3418 N. Lamar, 653-7872. www.austinwritersblock.com.

OLD QUARRY WRITERS Join the Old Quarry Branch Library Nonfiction Writers Group every other Thursday. For instance: Thu., Dec. 27, 6:30pm. Old Quarry Library, 7051 Village Center Dr., 340-0717.

OPEN MICS

WEIRD WORD is a round robin for poets and musicians. No sign-up sheet, no censors, no features. All poetry styles welcome. Currently BYOB for those so inclined. Hosted by the WarriorPoet. Note new

day. Mondays, 7-10pm. Cafe Caffeine, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473. www.southaustinstudios.com.

GENUINE JOE Make some noise, or just sit and enjoy the enchanting air of North Austin. All acts welcome, but no cover songs. Thursdays, 7:30-10pm. Genuine Joe Coffeehouse, 2001 W. Anderson, 220-1576. www.genuinejoe.com.

HIDEOUT MIC NEW YEAR'S EVE with your host, Thom the World Poet, and special guest Twyla Grace. All welcome! Kindness. As if we were (and we are) all kin. Mon., Dec. 31, 7-10pm. The Hideout Theatre, 617 Congress, 476-0473. \$2 (or canned food for Poets Pantry). www.hideouttheatre.com.

THE POETRY KARAOKE ORCHESTRA backs your poetry on the porch, with hosts Ivanho and Chris the Future. Bring canned foods for the Poets Pantry. Tuesdays, 8-10pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.rutamaya.net.

RUTA MAYA POETRY is one of the longest-running open mics in Austin. Hosted by David Bates and Mark Maslow. Donations accepted for Poets Pantry. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Ruta Maya, 3601 S. Congress Ste. D-200, 707-9637. www.freespeechchart.com.

THE AUSTIN POETRY SLAM Mike Henry and a rotating crew of slam ninjas captain the crew that has all the best of stand-up, po-mo theatre, rock & roll, and phone sex rolled into one cosmic-heat blast of an evening. Open sign-up, 12 poets per week. \$100 cash prizes. Featured poets kick it on, and then the tangles get electric. Note new venue! Wednesdays, 8pm. Scoot Inn and Bier Garten, 1308 E. Fourth, 478-6200. www.nps2007.com.

UNCENSORED OPEN MIC is hosted by Ed of Poetry Karaoke. All ages welcomed. Musicians, artists, dancers, all open living and free! Wednesdays, 8pm. Sticky Fingers Boutique, 2201 S. First, 693-9570. www.myspace.com.

VENTANA DEL SOL with Element 615. Reincarnate a word. Sundays, 7-9pm. Ventana del Soul, 1834 E. Oltorf, 707-7447. www.ventanadelsoul.org.

UNPROTECTED POETRY Spoken word from the House of Soul, with free refreshments. Thursdays, 7pm. Victory Grill, 1104 E. 11th, 391-0174. \$5 (after 8pm; free for performing poets). poetryatx@yahoo.com.

FIRST WEDNESDAYS @ VINNY'S Hosted by Kathleen Romana or a rotating cast of local stalwarts. Vinny's Italian Cafe, 1003 Barton Springs Rd., 482-8484. Free.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

AIPF DIVERSE YOUTH Austin International Poetry Festival's Diverse Youth is accepting poetry submissions from students in grades K-12. Deadline: Jan. 31. www.aipf.org.

MISCELLANEOUS

MORE POETRY! or yes & shadows of undergrowth red ghost fruit a music that bends wide between fronds asks him what distance to bridge a necessary separation the face of dissolution two hands two palms invisible lights bowing the moans of what pulls tension a quiet yield her hands plow bones of night resplendent mouth of stars. Namaste. Vaya con dios.

THE HOLIDAY BOOK DRIVE invites customers to purchase books for donation at Barnes & Noble bookstores through Jan. 1. Barnes & Noble will distribute the donated books to children through locally designated nonprofit organizations, schools, libraries, and literacy partners. This year Barnes & Noble Sunset Valley will be collecting books for the Women's Storybook Project and Helping Hand Home. Barnes & Noble South, 5601 Brodie, 892-3493.

POEM OF THE ISSUE

At what age did I find myself?

Where and when? Was I ever

young between the ears?

Was it then? Or in later years,

when smooth as a river rock,

slick as years ticking past

fast as seconds – on a clock.

Was it then? I can't recall

I only know it was yesterday

if at all ...

– Gary Kent

SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date.

The deadline for the Jan. 11 issue is Monday, Dec. 31. Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork. Include SASE for return of materials.

Send submissions to the attention of the appropriate writer (see roster below). Mail to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail:

Wayne Alan Brenner, theatre, comedy.

brenner@austinchronicle.com.

Robi Polgar, performance art, dance, classical.

dance-classical@austinchronicle.com.

Ric Williams, litera. litera@austinchronicle.com.

Benné Rockett, visual arts. art@austinchronicle.com.

Questions? Contact Wayne Alan Brenner, listings editor.

brenner@austinchronicle.com.

The Savages

D: Tamara Jenkins; with Laura Linney, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Philip Bosco, Peter Friedman, Gbenga Akinagbe. (R, 113 min.)

Don't pay any attention to the synopsis of this film. It'll make it sound like something for nonmasochists to side-step, and nothing could be further from the truth. Descriptors like "Alzheimer's," "dysfunctional siblings," "nursing homes," and "Buffalo" would seep into the picture, and they might overshadow other hints of just how smart, funny, thoughtful, and exquisitely realized Jenkins' movie really is. Nine years after *Slums of Beverly Hills* (Jenkins' delightful feature debut),

the writer/director's follow-up happily avoids the dreaded sophomore slump. In fact, *The Savages* skips a whole grade or two, for it's more like a senior thesis, a mature assessment of the knot of relationships that we call family. Her movie is a deft blend of realism, almost hyperrealism at times, and playful touches of structural whimsy. It of course helps that *The Savages* stars Linney, Hoffman, and New York stage vet Bosco – a brilliant ensemble that transfixes your attention whether they're working solo or in concert. Jon (Hoffman) and Wendy (Linney) are the grown and distant children of Lenny Savage (Bosco). (Are there shades here of the elder Darling children, John and Wendy, who flirt with the possibility of not growing up in *Peter Pan*?) When they are alerted by strangers to the fact that Lenny is showing signs of senile dementia and has been parked in a hospital in the retirement community of Sun City, Ariz., the brother and sister are catapulted into action. Jon is a drama professor in Buffalo who specializes in Brecht and the theatre of social unrest, while Wendy is a would-be playwright who lives in New York and works temp jobs and files continual grant applications. The subtlety of the interplay between siblings is one of the joys of *The Savages*. Their knowledge of each other locks them in an endless bout of familiar comforts and strategic barbs, reacting to primal triggers of sibling discontent that have otherwise been long ago put to rest, arising spontaneously upon contact, like a rash. Jon is the seemingly more analytic, more restrained one; Wendy is the more emotional of the two, the



one who believes the pictures in the nursing-home brochures and literally believes old dogs can learn new tricks. Yet in many ways they resemble their estranged father (just look at their faces as a doctor ticks off the symptoms of Lenny's dementia, starting with the blank stare). "We are not in a Sam Shepard play," declares Jon in response to Wendy's initial hysteria and guilt, yet he also assuages himself with the knowledge that he is doing better by his dad than his dad ever did for his kids. It seems that no matter what we do or don't do, the parent-child relationship is fraught. This conundrum brings up another aspect of *The Savages* that makes it hard to market broadly: The film is likely to play differently to people of different age groups, maybe even sexes. To what extent one identifies with, recognizes, and fears each of the characters may govern the viewer's disposition toward the subject matter. Younger viewers may have to wait awhile before they're able to locate their inner Savage. Again, this description is starting to sound bleak and belies the film's inherent humor and self-awareness. Lovely visual and musical choices supplement the extraordinary central performances (the only misstep is the phony-looking wig Linney wears). Jenkins' superlative work proves her first film was no fluke; let's hope it doesn't take another nine years to hear from her again. – Marjorie Baumgarten ★★★★★ Arbor

New Reviews

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM

D: Greg Strause, Colin Strause; with Steven Pasquale, Reiko Aylesworth, John Ortiz, Johnny Lewis, Ariel Gade. (R, 86 min.)

What can I say about the extraterrestrial bloodbath *Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem* except that I think the book was better? This sequel to the much-maligned (though, to be fair, probably just misunderstood) *Alien vs. Predator* is an orgy of mindless violence, a random collection of bloody bodies, alien misanthropy, and slobbering carnage designed to bore straight into the pleasure centers of 13-year-old boys and leave the rest of us wondering when the movies got so damn loud. I won't go too deeply into the film's plot because I don't want to ruin it for you, but I can tell you that a UFO carrying a pack of salivating aliens like those that tormented

Sigourney Weaver back in the Eighties crash-lands in the woods outside a small town in Colorado, followed by the arrival of a predator (of the dreadlocked variety that tormented Jesse "the Body" Ventura back in the Eighties), who's hunting down the aliens one by one. Needless to say, it isn't long before the first human being gets caught in the cross fire and there are severed arms and disemboweled bodies all over town, not to mention the occasional skinned corpse left drip-drying from the limb of an oak tree, occurrences that lead the local sheriff (Ortiz) to conclude that something could maybe, possibly be amiss. Cue the local ad hoc militia full of walking, talking movie clichés, and you've got yourself a donnybrook: *Aliens vs. Predator vs. B-Movie Thespians*. I can't say for sure what the "Requiem" in the film's title refers to, though we can only hope it means it will be the last in the series. More likely, though, it has to do with the movie's tone of

apocalyptic ruin and its absurdly high body count. Say what you will about this artless, joyless gore fest, but pretty much everyone is dead by the time it's over – men, women, children, aliens, predators, priests, rabbis, mullahs – so at least its creators can't be accused of playing it safe. That's okay, though, because there's so much else they can be accused of, like shooting every scene in almost total darkness, so it's impossible to tell who's fighting whom and why; like turning up the sound effects so loud that viewers can't hear themselves think; like making a movie that's most effective if its viewers don't think. Am I sounding old yet? Oh, to be a teenager, now that *Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem* is here. – Josh Rosenblatt

★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

D: Jon Turteltaub; with Nicolas Cage, Jon Voight, Ed Harris, Helen Mirren, Justin Bartha, Diane Kruger, Harvey Keitel, Bruce Greenwood. (PG, 124 min.)

Less twisty than its 2004 predecessor and yet somehow more incoherent, *National Treasure: Book of Secrets* plays like a duplicate schematic of the first. Treasure hunter Benjamin Franklin Gates (Cage) lights on a noble cause; enlists a plucky cast of fellow hunters, code crackers, and danger enthusiasts (including the unsung Bartha, as Gates' geekboy Friday); then goes on a globe-hopping quest that amounts to a cinematic series of Russian nesting dolls – crack one clue, and you're awarded with another, equally inscrutable one. Here, Gates is trying to clear the name of an ancestor accused of masterminding the Lincoln assassination, which is connected to Harris' Confederate son Mitch Wilkinson's search for a kind of holy grail – the mythic Native American city of gold, Cebola (a sign of the times: Wilkinson's baddieness is telegraphed via résumé – he handles a private security firm in the Middle East). In case you were wondering, yes, that's the same Ed Harris who's been four times a bridesmaid at the Oscars, mugging alongside other anointed talent as Voight (shambling along as Gates' daddy, his face in a state of perpetual perplexity), Mirren (as his academic mom), and Cage himself, who's been slumming so long now, it's hard to remember a time he was ever taken seriously (and he's seriously no heir to Indiana Jones – too goofy, too earnest, too sexless). I don't mean to sound like a sourpuss: There's certainly a place for this kind of entertainment, and the first outing – same director, same screenwriters (husband-and-wife team Cormac and Marianne Wibberley), same cast – was pleasantly rompy and even sweetly patriotic in its history-buff bent (a retro-ish rejoinder to the bumper-sticker variety à la mode). *Book of Secrets*, however, isn't so much a romp as a long trudge through American history factoids and conspiracy-theory gobbledygook. Cool car chase, though. – Kimberley Jones

★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE ORPHANAGE

D: Juan Antonio Bayona; with Belén Rueda, Fernando Cayo, Roger Princep, Mabel Rivera, Edgar Vivar, Geraldine Chaplin, Monserrat Carulla. (R, 100 min., subtitled)

At the risk of ticking off producer Guillermo del Toro, the Spanish shocker *The Orphanage* is no *Devil's Backbone*. It's hardly spineless, so to speak, but neither is it on par with several of the other *películas asustadizas* from which it borrows heavily, either in tone or tale, chief among them *The Omen*, Alejandro Amenábar's *The Others*, Mario Bava's *Kill, Baby ... Kill!*, and at least a deuce of Dario Argento *gialli*. (Okay, *The Orphanage* trumps Richard

Donner's hysterical *Omen*, fair enough, but it also rips off that film's infamous birth-day-party sequence almost shot for shot.) It's got neo-Gothic style to spare and a dense, suffocating atmosphere in which Henry James could gleefully asphyxiate, and, too, it strives mightily to have a heart in the midst of all the miasmatic, ghostly goings-on. To paraphrase *Psycho* author Robert Bloch, it may have the heart of a small boy ... but it's in a jar, on a desk somewhere ... else. The rhythmic, emotional throb and thrum that lie at the center of Del Toro's best work are oddly absent from *The Orphanage*, which is otherwise plainly inspired in large part by Mexico's most eloquent director of the eerie and outré. It may be an exquisite corpse, but it's still DOA. Nonetheless, Bayona and his cast (abetted by the ominously beautiful cinematography of Óscar Faura and Josep Rosell's suitably lachrymose art direction) pull out all the stops, and for a while, you're immersed in the increasingly creepy story of married couple Laura (Rueda) and Carlos (Cayo) and their adopted, terminally cute son, Simón (Princep). When the latter inexplicably vanishes during a celebratory party for his parents' grand reopening of the titular orphanage (Laura's long-ago home, as it turns out), the film opens wide the floodgates of unease, and suddenly this sunny, seaside manse is doing double duty for Hill (or Hell, take your pick) House. There's a disquietingly amusing sequence involving the stick-thin Chaplin and the vast Vivar as a sort of Laurel and Hardy-esque psychic-investigation duo and a terrific and abruptly shocking turn by Carulla as a myopic, utterly mesmerizing mystery woman from Laura's girlhood; really, across the board, the acting is never less than superb. Sergio Sánchez's lyrical, occasionally poetic script is played out in a tragic key that feels far too minor, but there are way more than seven black notes here (despite one genuinely ghastly moment that rivals anything Lucio Fulci ever splashed onscreen), and ultimately the composition comes off as both overplayed and underdone. Bayona – while clearly a director of enormous talent – exerts too much obvious effort to foster our sympathies as completely as this emotionally nuanced story requires, and it all ends with what should be the bang of your heart pounding clean out of your chest but feels more like the fidgety whimper of restless kids with nowhere else to go. – *Marc Savlov*

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South

First Runs

*Full-length reviews available online at austinchronicle.com. Dates at end of reviews indicate original publication date.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS

D: Tim Hill; with Jason Lee, David Cross, Cameron Richardson, Jane Lynch; with the voices of Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler, Jesse McCartney. (PG, 92 min.)

What's it all about, Alvin? Apparently it's about rebranding a musty old comic conceit for a whole new generation of proto-Willards. The adenoidal animated vermin of Ross Bagdasarian Sr. and Jr. have arrived via CGI in this live-action updating/companion to the Bagdasarian family's lengthy *rodentia comicus*-related history, the pinnacle of which remains 1958's holiday novelty tune "The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)." Hill's Chipmunk tale is a strictly by-the-numbers affair, aimed in the most generic direction conceivable. Lee plays Dave, a well-intentioned but bumbling songwriter aided and abetted in life and love (and icky-sweet pop music) by My Three Chipmunks. *Mr. Show*'s Cross is a duplicitous record mogul, who plays nice with Dave while conniving behind his back (boot!), and Richardson is the mutant-model-photographer-chick-thing Dave's all gooeey on. Will true love prevail? Will Dave grow a backbone (and some real songwriting talent)? They shoot rodents, don't they? (12/14/2007) – *Marc Savlov*

★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

★ ATONEMENT

D: Joe Wright; with Keira Knightley, James McAvoy, Saoirse Ronan, Romola Garai, Vanessa Redgrave, Benedict Cumberbatch, Brenda Blethyn, Juno Temple, Daniel Mays. (R, 130 min.)

Imagination typically should be encouraged in children, but an excess of it leads to tragedy in this more than worthy adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel. Thirteen-year-old Briony (the wonderfully unnerving novice Ronan) is indulged, but also largely ignored, by her family, which includes her headstrong 19-year-old sister, Cecilia (Knightley, seductively husky, wincingly angular). One day in 1935, Briony witnesses a bewildering act that involves Cecilia and the housekeeper's son, Robbie (McAvoy). Only later does she realize how one person's vantage, one person's *truth*, doesn't always square with another's. But that epiphany doesn't arrive until the film's second of three sections, when a now-18-year-old Briony (Garai) attempts to write a novelization of that day in 1935. (The film's epilogue takes place in modern times.) *Atonement* is a work consumed with the nature of storytelling and the moral responsibility of the storyteller. The film is not quite as brutalizing as McEwan's brilliant source novel, but it ravishes nonetheless in its grand exploration of the sins of the daughter and a lifetime spent making reparations. (12/14/2007) – *Kimberley Jones*

★★★★ Arbor, Tinseltown North

Openings

The Orphanage (R)

The Savages (R)

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austinchronicle.com/film.

Ratings

★★★★★ As perfect as a movie can be

★★★★ Slightly flawed, but excellent nonetheless

★★★ Has its good points, and its bad points

★★ Mediocre, but with one or two bright spots

★ Poor, without any saving graces

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Sat. 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 11:59
Sun. 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) Fri. & Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40
Sat. & Sun. 10:15 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:20 9:40

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) Fri. - Thu. 1:40 4:25 7:10 9:55

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) Fri. 1:45 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:15 7:45 10:00 10:30 11:45
Sat. 11:00 1:45 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:15 7:45 10:00 10:30
Mon. - Thu. 1:45 2:15 4:30 5:00 7:15 7:45 10:00 10:30

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM (R) Fri. 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30 11:40
Sat. 10:30 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30 11:40
Sun. 10:30 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 12:50 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) Fri. 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30 11:55
Sat. 11:40 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30 11:55
Sun. 11:40 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30
Mon. - Thu. 2:05 4:30 7:00 9:30

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) Fri. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20 11:30
Sat. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20 11:30
Sun. 10:25 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20
Mon. - Thu. 12:30 2:35 4:40 7:10 9:20

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13) Fri. & Mon. - Thu. 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
Sat. & Sun. 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) Fri. 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 11:59
Sat. 10:50 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50 11:59
Sun. 10:50 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
Mon. - Thu. 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) Sat. & Sun. 11:00

ENCHANTED (PG) Sat. & Sun. 10:00

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High for the Holidays: (Good) Friday: Fri, 12mid; Sun, 9:45pm
High for the Holidays: Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle With All-You-Can-Eat Miniburgers: Fri, 7:00pm
High for the Holidays: Head: Sun, 7:00pm
Master Pancake: Home Alone: Sat, 9:45, 12mid
I Am Legend: Fri, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50, 11:55pm; Sat, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:30pm; Sun, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50pm; Mon, 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50pm; Tue-Thu (1/3), 11:45am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:20, 9:50pm
I'm Not There: Fri, 3:50pm; Sun-Thu (1/3), 3:50pm
Lars and the Real Girl: Fri, 11:00am, 1:25pm; Sat, 11:00am, 1:25, 7:00pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:25pm; Mon, 11:00am, 1:25, 7:00pm; Tue-Wed, 11:00am, 1:25, 7:00, 9:35pm; Thu (1/3), 11:00am, 1:25pm
There Will Be Blood Sneak Preview: Sat, 12mid
Terror Thursday: Tourist Trap: Thu (1/3), 12mid

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The Golden Compass: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:40, 7:35, 10:35; Mon, 12:30, 3:40, 7:35; Tue-Thu (1/3), 12:30, 3:40, 7:35, 10:35
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I Am Legend: Fri-Sun, 12:10, 12:40, 3:00, 3:35, 7:05, 7:15, 10:00, 10:25; Mon, 12:10, 12:40, 3:00, 3:35, 7:05, 7:15; Tue-Thu (1/3), 12:10, 12:40, 3:00, 3:35, 7:05, 7:15, 10:00, 10:25
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sun, 12:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:05; Mon, 12:00, 3:15, 7:00; Tue-Thu (1/3), 12:00, 3:15, 7:00, 10:05
Tromatic Thursday: Superstarlet A.D.: Fri-Thu (1/3), 10:00pm
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The Kite Runner: Fri-Sun, 12:30, 3:30, 7:05, 10:05; Mon, 12:30, 3:30, 7:05; Tue-Thu (1/3), 12:30, 3:30, 7:05, 10:05
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri-Sun, 12:45, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Mon, 12:45, 3:45, 7:10; Tue-Thu (1/3), 12:45, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15
No Country for Old Men: Fri-Sun, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25pm; Mon, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:40pm; Tue-Thu (1/3), 11:05am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:40, 10:25pm
The Orphanage: Fri-Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00, 11:55pm; Mon, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30pm; Tue-Thu (1/3), 11:30am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00pm
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The Kite Runner: 12:10, 12:50, 2:50, 4:30, 6:40, 7:30, 9:40
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Alvin and the Chipmunks (closed captioned): 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30pm
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10pm; Sun, 12:30, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10; Mon-Thu (1/3), 10:00am, 12:25, 2:50, 5:15, 7:40, 10:10pm
Enchanted: Fri-Sat, 10:10am, 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20pm; Sun, 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20; Mon-Thu (1/3), 10:10am, 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 7:50, 10:20pm
The Golden Compass: Fri-Sat, 11:50am, 2:30, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35pm; Sun, 2:30, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 11:50am, 2:30, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35pm
I Am Legend: 10:30am, 12:55, 3:15, 5:40, 8:15, 10:50pm
Juno: 11:00am, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15pm
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PS. I Love You: Fri-Sat, 11:05am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:45, 10:45pm; Sun, 2:00, 4:55, 7:45, 10:45; Mon-Thu (1/3), 11:05am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:45, 10:45pm
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: 10:00am, 12:30, 3:05, 5:45, 8:30, 11:10pm
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: 10:55am, 1:20, 3:40, 5:55, 8:10, 10:40pm
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 11:35am, 2:00, 4:25, 7:20, 9:45pm

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***Charlie Wilson's War:** 11:40am, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:50pm
Enchanted: Fri-Tue, 12:15pm
The Golden Compass: 1:15, 4:00, 6:55, 9:30
I Am Legend: 11:45am, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5:20, 6:30, 7:50, 9:00, 10:20pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** Fri-Tue, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:45; Wed-Thu (1/3), 12:15, 1:00, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:45
***PS. I Love You:** 12:00, 3:15, 6:50, 9:40
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** 12:10, 2:45, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** 11:35am, 2:20, 5:00, 7:45, 10:25pm

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***Charlie Wilson's War:** 11:25am, 2:20, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35pm
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The Golden Compass: 11:20am, 2:00, 4:55, 7:35, 10:15pm
***The Great Debaters:** 12:40, 3:55, 6:55, 10:00
I Am Legend: 11:30am, 12:15, 2:15, 3:00, 5:05, 6:05, 7:40, 9:10, 10:10pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** 12:00, 12:55, 3:15, 4:10, 6:25, 7:20, 9:35, 10:25
No Country for Old Men: 10:20pm
***PS. I Love You:** 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** 11:15am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:45pm
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** 11:15am, 2:05, 5:00, 7:45, 10:35pm

CINEMARK MOVIES 8 ROUND ROCK 2120 N. Mays (Round Rock), 512/388-2848. Discounts daily before 5pm. Call theatre for showtimes Tuesday, Jan. 1, through Thursday, Jan. 3.
***Bee Movie:** Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 11:45, 1:20, 2:05, 4:00, 4:35, 6:30, 9:00pm
The Bourne Ultimatum: Fri-Mon, 7:05, 9:45
***The Game Plan:** Fri-Mon, 11:05am, 1:45, 4:20, 7:00, 9:35pm
Mr. Bean's Holiday: Fri-Mon, 11:25am, 1:40, 4:30pm
***Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium:** Fri-Mon, 11:30am, 1:35, 4:10, 7:20, 9:40pm
Rush Hour 3: Fri-Mon, 7:10, 9:15
***Saw IV:** Fri-Mon, 11:20am, 1:30, 4:05, 7:15, 9:30pm
***Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?:** Fri-Mon, 11:10am, 1:55, 4:40, 7:25, 10:10pm
***We Own the Night:** Fri-Mon, 11:15am, 2:00, 4:45, 7:30, 10:15pm

CINEMARK ROUND ROCK 4401 N. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** 12:10, 2:40, 5:15, 8:15, 10:40
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 10:05am, 10:50, 12:20, 1:15, 2:35, 3:30, 5:05, 6:30, 7:35, 10:00pm
***Charlie Wilson's War:** 10:55am, 1:35, 4:30, 7:15, 9:50pm
Enchanted: 9:50am, 12:30, 3:20, 6:20, 9:10pm
The Golden Compass: 9:00pm
***The Great Debaters:** 10:15am, 1:10, 4:15, 7:20, 10:20pm
I Am Legend: 10:10am, 10:45, 12:40, 1:20, 3:05, 4:05, 5:30, 6:50, 8:00, 9:40, 10:25pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** 9:45am, 10:30, 11:50, 1:00, 1:40, 3:00, 4:00, 4:45, 6:15, 7:05, 7:50, 9:30, 10:10, 10:45pm
***PS. I Love You:** 10:00am, 12:50, 3:45, 6:45, 9:45pm
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** 11:20am, 2:20, 5:25, 8:10, 10:30pm
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:30, 10:15pm

CINEMARK SOUTHPARK MEADOWS 9900 S. I-35, 800/FANDANGO.
***Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem:** 11:30am, 12:55, 2:00, 3:45, 4:35, 6:35, 7:10, 9:45, 10:25pm
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 10:15am, 10:45, 1:00, 1:45, 4:00, 4:45, 6:30, 7:40, 9:30pm
***Charlie Wilson's War:** 10:10am, 1:05, 3:40, 6:55, 9:40pm
Enchanted: Fri-Mon, 12:50pm; Wed-Thu (1/3), 10:10am, 12:50pm
The Golden Compass: 9:55am, 12:45, 4:10, 7:00pm
***The Great Debaters:** 10:40am, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20pm
I Am Legend: 9:55am, 10:30, 12:40, 1:20, 3:50, 4:20, 6:45, 7:15, 9:35, 10:00, 10:30pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** 10:05am, 1:10, 3:30, 4:25, 6:50, 7:35, 9:55, 10:35pm
No Country for Old Men: 10:15pm
***PS. I Love You:** 10:20am, 1:25, 4:30, 7:25, 10:20pm
***Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story:** 10:35am, 1:30, 3:55, 7:20, 10:05pm
***The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep:** 10:00am, 12:40, 3:35, 7:05, 9:45pm

DOBIE THEATRE 2025 Guadalupe (Dobie Mall, second floor), 472-FILM.
Before the Devil Knows You're Dead: Fri-Mon, 4:10, 10:00; Wed-Thu (1/3), 10:00pm
The Darjeeling Limited: Fri, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10; Mon, 7:20pm; Tue, 1:30, 7:20, 10:10; Wed-Thu (1/3), 7:20, 10:10
I'm Not There: Fri, 7:00pm; Sat-Sun, 1:10, 7:00; Mon, 7:00pm; Tue, 1:10, 7:00; Wed-Thu (1/3), 7:00pm
Into the Wild: Fri, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Mon, 6:50pm; Tue, 1:00, 4:00, 6:50, 9:40; Wed-Thu (1/3), 6:50, 9:40
Juno: Fri, 5:00, 7:10, 9:50; Sat-Sun, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:50; Mon, 7:10pm; Tue, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:10, 9:50; Wed-Thu (1/3), 7:10, 9:50

GALAXY HIGHLAND 10 North I-35 & Middle Fiskville, 467-7305.
No one under 18 will be allowed in the theatre on Friday and Saturday after 7pm without an adult.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: Fri, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 11:40; Sat, 10:30am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30, 11:40pm; Sun, 10:30am, 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 12:50, 3:00, 5:10, 7:20, 9:30
Alvin and the Chipmunks: Fri, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30; Sat, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20, 11:30pm; Sun, 10:25am, 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 12:30, 2:35, 4:40, 7:10, 9:20
Charlie Wilson's War: Fri, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40; Sat-Sun, 10:15am, 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
Enchanted: Sat-Sun, 10:00am
The Golden Compass: Sat-Sun, 11:00am
The Great Debaters: Fri, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00; Sat-Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
I Am Legend: Fri, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm, 12mid; Sat, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm, 12mid; Sun, 11:30am, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: Fri, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30, 11:45; Sat, 11:00am, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30, 11:45pm; Sun, 11:00am, 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 1:45, 2:15, 4:30, 5:00, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30
PS. I Love You: 1:40, 4:25, 7:10, 9:55
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: Fri, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50pm, 12mid; Sat, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50pm, 12mid; Sun, 10:50am, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: Fri, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:55; Sat, 11:40am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:55pm; Sun, 11:40am, 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm; Mon-Thu (1/3), 2:05, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

GATEWAY THEATRE 9700 Stonelake, between Capital of Texas Highway and Highway 183 in the Gateway shopping center, 416-5700 x3808.
Aliens vs. Predator: Requiem: 12:15, 2:40, 5:15, 8:00, 10:25
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 12:00, 2:20, 4:55, 7:30, 9:50
Charlie Wilson's War: 11:15am, 11:45, 1:40, 2:10, 4:05, 4:45, 6:40, 7:10, 9:25, 10:05pm
Enchanted: 11:25am, 2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35pm
The Golden Compass: 11:55am, 2:25, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20pm
The Great Debaters: 12:25, 3:20, 6:35, 9:30
I Am Legend: Fri, 10:40am, 1:05, 2:35, 3:30, 5:10, 6:55, 7:35, 10:00, 10:35pm; Sat, 10:40am, 12:05, 1:05, 3:30, 5:10, 6:55, 7:35, 10:00, 10:35pm; Sun, 10:40am, 1:05, 2:35, 3:30, 5:10, 6:55, 7:35, 10:00pm; Mon, 10:40am, 1:05, 2:35, 3:30, 5:10, 6:55, 10:00, 10:35pm; Tue, 10:40am, 12:05, 1:05, 3:30, 5:10, 6:55, 7:35, 10:00pm; Wed, 10:40am, 1:05, 2:35, 3:30, 5:10, 6:55, 10:00, 10:35pm; Thu (1/3), 10:40am, 12:05, 1:05, 3:30, 5:10, 6:55, 7:35, 10:00pm
***I Am Legend* (open captioned):** Fri, 12:05pm; Sat, 2:35pm; Sun, 12:05, 10:35; Mon, 12:05, 7:35; Tue, 2:35, 10:35; Wed, 12:05, 7:35; Thu (1/3), 2:35, 10:35
National Treasure: Book of Secrets: 11:00am, 11:30, 1:55, 3:00, 4:50, 6:45, 7:45, 9:40, 10:40pm
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets* (in DLP digital):** 10:30am, 1:25, 4:20, 7:15, 10:10pm
PS. I Love You: 11:10am, 2:15, 5:05, 7:55, 10:45pm
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: 11:20am, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:15pm
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: 12:10, 2:45, 5:20, 7:50, 10:30
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 11:05am, 1:45, 4:25, 7:00, 9:45pm

IMAX THEATRE Texas State History Museum (1800 N. Congress), 936-IMAX.
The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience: Fri-Sat, 1:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00; Sun, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00; Mon, 2:00, 5:00, 7:00; Wed-Thu (1/3), 2:00, 7:00
Santa vs. the Snowman 3D: Fri-Mon, 11:00am, 4:00pm
Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure: Fri-Sat, 10:00am, 3:00pm; Sun, 10:00am, 12:00pm; Wed-Thu (1/3), 10:00am, 1:00, 5pm
Texas: The Big Picture: Wed-Thu (1/3), 11:00am, 4:00pm
Wildfire: Feel the Heat: Fri-Sat, 12:00pm; Mon, 1:00pm; Wed-Thu (1/3), 12:00, 6:00

LAKELINE STARPORT Lakeline Mall at Highway 183 and RR 620, 335-4793. Discounts daily before 6pm; all day Wednesday.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 11:30am, 1:50, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm
***Charlie Wilson's War:** 11:40am, 2:20, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00pm
Enchanted: 11:50am, 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:35pm
Juno: 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:30, 10:10
***National Treasure: Book of Secrets:** 12:00, 12:30, 3:10, 4:00, 6:50, 7:25, 9:55, 10:30
PS. I Love You: 12:40, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05
Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street: 11:20am, 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:40pm
The Water Horse: Legend of the Deep: 11:10am, 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:25pm

METROPOLITAN South I-35 at Stassney, 447-0101.
Alvin and the Chipmunks: 11:45am, 12:15, 2:10, 2:50, 4:30, 5:10, 7:05, 7:35, 9:35, 10:05pm
Beowulf: 12:45, 4:20, 7:15, 10:20
Enchanted: Fri-Mon, 11:15am, 12:25, 2:05, 4:20, 4:45, 7:20, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30pm; Tue, 11:15am, 2:05, 4:20, 4:45, 7:20, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30pm; Wed-Thu (1/3), 11:15am, 12:25, 2:05, 4:20, 4:45, 7:20, 7:45, 10:00, 10:30pm
The Golden Compass: 11:10am, 12:30, 2:05, 4:10, 4:55, 7:15, 7:45, 10:00, 10:35pm
The Great Debaters: 11:00am, 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45pm
Hitman: 12:20, 3:00, 5:50, 8:05, 10:30
***I Am Legend:** 11:30am, 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, 2:40, 4:00, 4:40, 5:20, 6:50, 7:30, 8:00, 9:40, 10:10, 10:40pm
Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story: 11:50am, 12:40, 2:30, 4:15, 5:00, 7:00, 7:40, 9:50, 10:25pm

BEE MOVIE

D: Steve Hickner, Simon J. Smith; with the voices of Jerry Seinfeld, Renée Zellweger, Matthew Broderick, Patrick Warburton, John Goodman, Chris Rock, Kathy Bates, Barry Levinson, Oprah Winfrey, Rip Torn, Larry King. (PG, 90 min.)

Bee Movie is an agreeable though tame animated picture. Seinfeld plays Barry B. Benson, a bee who, having just graduated from college (with "perfect grades – all Bs"), must choose a career. Visually, *Bee Movie* never fully capitalizes on the reality-bending possibilities of the animated form. The story zips along at a fast clip so that the film's nifty and not-so-nifty moments are swept along in its current, including some pertinent though gentle messages about the ecological balance of the universe. *Bee Movie* works best when it sticks to the insect world; when Barry leaves the hive with the Pollen Jocks and breaks the cardinal rule of beedom by speaking to humans, the film becomes more earthbound and prosaic. No nectar of the gods this, but we can still be thankful that *Bee Movie* is a sweet morsel that's devoid of any jokes about bee farts and poop. (11/02/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Movies 8

BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS YOU'RE DEAD

D: Sidney Lumet; with Philip Seymour Hoffman, Ethan Hawke, Albert Finney, Marisa Tomei, Rosemary Harris, Michael Shannon, Amy Ryan, Bryan F. O'Byrne. (R, 116 min.)

Lumet is 83 years old now, but the storyline in *Before the Devil Knows You're Dead* carries both the rhythms of youthful vanity – and its attendant fearlessness – and the dead-on, relentless morality of an Old Testament Hollywood hand. This is one of those films where the less you know going in, the better time you'll likely have, but the bare bones go like this: Two brothers, Hank (Hawke) and Andy (Hoffman) Hanson, plot the robbery of a jewelry store to alleviate their individual financial woes. This misguided robbery goes horrifically wrong and sets off a chain reaction of cascading disasters for not only the brothers Hanson but, ultimately, for the entire Hanson family. The situation doesn't just bomb; it goes all-out nuclear. Meanwhile the performances of the two leads, as well as Finney, Tomei, and the others, are downright thrilling. (11/09/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★★ Dobie

BEOWULF

D: Robert Zemeckis; with Ray Winstone, Anthony Hopkins, Robin Wright Penn, Brendan Gleeson, Crispin Glover, Angelina Jolie, John Malkovich. (PG-13, 115 min.)

The irony inherent in using 21st century motion-control technology to tell a tale approximately 1,400 years old is just one of many bizarrely entertaining aspects of *Beowulf*. High school English teachers may breathe a collective sigh of relief:

Although this version of *Beowulf* (the script, ricocheting between thrilling, heroic, and hilarious, is by Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary) does take some liberties, it's as faithful to the extant version as it needs to be. There's no doubt *Beowulf* is cracker-jack popcorn entertainment. The 3-D effects are jaw-droppingly immersive and realistic, but thanks to the witty, zippy script, they never detract from the story. The sticking point, for many people, will be Zemeckis' reliance on the imperfect technique of motion-control animation, which still exhibits a certain *Shrek*iness when it comes to such complex, expressive textures as the human face. Then again, the technique allows one hell of a kickass dragon. (11/16/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Metropolitan

THE BOURNE ULTIMATUM

D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, Paddy Considine, Edgar Ramirez, Albert Finney, Joan Allen. (PG-13, 111 min.)

Conventional wisdom states that by the third movie in any series, lead characters have long since given up any psychological relevance, and plots have become mere retreads. Which makes *The Bourne Ultimatum* – the third in the Robert Ludlum-penned series about Jason Bourne (Damon), the rogue CIA spook with impossibly broad shoulders and the memory of a goldfish – such an achievement. Director Greengrass bests his own excellent *The Bourne Supremacy*, creating a true action thriller that's far closer to art than it probably has any right to be. Episode three finds Bourne still struggling to reconstruct his identity while bringing down elaborate conspiracies percolating among the higher-ups in the American intelligence community. He doesn't know his real name; he can't remember why he is where he is or why he does what he does. And – unkindest cut of all! – he can't remember that he used to schtup Julia Stiles. (08/03/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★★ Movies 8, Rounders Pizzeria

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR

D: Mike Nichols; with Tom Hanks, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Julia Roberts, Amy Adams, Ned Beatty, Denis O'Hare. (R, 97 min.)

Accents by way of *Hee Haw* aside, not once in this would-be political romp do we forget that the man and woman before us, embodying such outré real-life characters as a hard-partying congressman and a born-again Houston socialite, are anyone other than the beloved institutions of Tom and Julia. Based on George Crile's book, *Charlie Wilson's War* tells the true-life story of how Texan Rep. Wilson (Hanks), best known for boozing and keeping company with *Playboy* Playmates, managed to raise \$1 billion with the help of socialite Joanne Herring (Roberts) to secretly fund Afghanistan's mujahideen in their fight against the invading Soviet Union in the early Eighties. Sounds a little wonky, I know, but, as adapted by *The West Wing*'s Aaron

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| NO COUNTRY OLD MEN | 1105 | 145 | 430 | 740 | 1025* | |
| SWEENEY TODD • | | 1215 | 415 | 735 | 1035* | |
| THE KITE RUNNER • | | 1230 | 330 | 705 | 1005* | |
| NATIONAL TREASURE • | | 1245 | 345 | 710 | 1015* | |
| ORPHANAGE • | 1130 | 730 | 1000* | MIDNIGHT* | | |

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|-------------------------------|-------|-----|-----|----------|-------|-----------|
| CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR • | 1100* | 135 | 420 | 720 | 1000* | |
| THE GOLDEN COMPASS | | 110 | 415 | 725 | 1020 | |
| WALK HARD • | 1115* | 140 | 410 | 705 | 950* | MIDNIGHT* |
| I AM LEGEND | | 115 | 405 | 700 | 945* | MIDNIGHT* |
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7:15 7:25 10:00 10:25

WALK HARD
(12:45 3:30)
7:25 10:10

THE GREAT DEBATERS
(11:50 3:05)
7:10 10:15

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN
(12:00 3:15)
7:00 10:05

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Mon: 7:10; Wed, Thur: 7:10, 9:50

INTO THE WILD
Fri: (4:00) 6:50, 9:40; Sat, Sun, Tue: (1:00, 4:00) 6:50, 9:40;
Mon: 6:50; Wed, Thur: 6:50, 9:40

THE DARJEELING LIMITED
Fri: (4:30) 7:20, 10:10; Sat, Sun, Tue: (1:30, 4:30) 7:20, 10:10;
Mon: 7:20; Wed, Thur: 7:20, 10:10

I'M NOT THERE
Fri, Mon, Wed, Thur: 7:00; Sat, Sun, Tue: (1:10) 7:00

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I ♥ VIDEO

The Wager

The Wager (2007) D: Judson Pearce Morgan; with Randy Travis, Jude Ciccolella, Bronson Pinchot, Candace Cameron Bure. (PG) Travis plays an actor who is faced with the most important decision of his life in this movie, which is premiering in churches across the country on New Year's Eve. @Victory Christian Center, Mon., 9pm; free.



orphan living in a steampunk universe parallel to Oxford, England, whose fate – which has something to do with a holy, multiverse war yet to come – was long ago predicted by witches. Yup, it's that kind of world: witches, gypsies (seafaring gypsies), and, most delightfully, daemons, which are the animal manifestations of human souls. This is a terrifying world, in which trouble is visited regularly on small children. Writer/director Weitz far exceeds here, in vision and ambition, the perfectly passable entertainments of *American Pie* and *About a Boy*. The special effects are mostly spectacular. (12/07/2007) – Kimberley Jones

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE GREAT DEBATERS

D: Denzel Washington; with Washington, Forest Whitaker, Nate Parker, Jurnee Smollett, Denzel Whitaker, Kimberly Elise, John Heard. (PG-13, 123 min.)

In his second outing as a director, Washington chooses an inspirational story, yet even though *The Great Debaters* is a historical story worth telling, the film is hobbled by the narrative predictability that inevitably governs this type of drama. Like his first directorial effort, *Antwone Fisher*, *The Great Debaters* is based on a true story in which Washington casts himself in the role of the elder

leading man, the guiding figure who helps characters from the younger generation overcome the damage of their past and grab hold of the opportunities for their future. Although Washington is perfectly fine in his performance here as the professor and coach of Wiley College's national-championship-winning debate team in 1935, the role calls for no special showmanship on the part of the dependably brilliant actor. So, too, as the director, Washington brings no special stylistic flourish to the film, instead placing himself at the straightforward service of the Oprah Winfrey-produced story. (12/21/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North

HITMAN

D: Xavier Gens; with Timothy Olyphant, Dougray Scott, Olga Kurylenko, Ulrich Thomsen, Robert Knepper, Henry Ian Cusick. (R, 100 min.)

To be sure, *Hitman* is a lousy film, but like the video game that inspired it, it's also great fun, drawing as it does on everything from James Bondian Eurotrash panache to Vin Diesel's moribund XXX character. Studio backchatter had been buzzing awhile back about credited director Gens – helmer of the French gorefest *Frontière(s)* – getting sacked in the interest of a less violent take on the assassination game via longtime editor Nicolas De Toth (*Live Free or Die Hard*). However, who

directed what is about as fruitful a line of query as “What the hell?” since the entire movie – including its clichéd slo-mo ballistic ballets and Kurylenko's generous swallow-your-tongue, ooh-la-la-isms – is ripped off from its myriad genre predecessors (not least of which are *La Femme Nikita* and *The Professional*, both from *Hitman* co-producer Luc Besson). Still, *Hitman* is nothing if not a brain-dead pleasure bomb. (11/23/2007) – Marc Savlov
★ Metropolitan

I AM LEGEND

D: Francis Lawrence; with Will Smith, Alice Braga, Charlie Tahan, Salli Richardson, Willow Smith, Dash Mihok, Darrell Foster, April Grace, Joanna Numata. (PG-13, 100 min.)

Smith plays Robert Neville, a military immunologist who is the only real human left in New York. By day he wanders the city's empty avenues with his German shepherd, scavenging for food and gasoline; by night he barricades himself in his apartment with his rifle to wait for the living dead to break down the door. All this happens during the film's first 10 minutes, so initially I was optimistic. First of all, Lawrence's desolate Manhattan is a wonder to behold. And secondly, Smith's Neville is no unblinking model of action-film courage; he is terrified, lonely, and racked with guilt over his inability to save the lives of ... well, anyone – a guilt he tries to assuage by working on a vaccine to save humanity, not to mention his own soul. Unfortunately, after the first 10 minutes it's all downhill for *I Am Legend*, as the film descends into a monster-movie malaise starring a horde of balding CGI monsters. (12/14/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

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★ I'M NOT THERE

D: Todd Haynes; with Christian Bale, Cate Blanchett, Marcus Carl Franklin, Richard Gere, Heath Ledger, Ben Whishaw, Charlotte Gainsbourg, Bruce Greenwood, Michelle Williams, Julianne Moore. (R, 135 min.)

"I don't belong to anybody," goes a verse from the titular song, which may very well be the point, or at least one of them, in a film that was "inspired by the many lives of Bob Dylan." Nobody here's named Bob, per se, but we get six incarnations that represent cycles in the life of the artist formally known as Robert Zimmerman. Physically, Blanchett bears the closest resemblance to Dylan, and she's great, of course, but the emotional guts of *I'm Not There* belong to Ledger and Gainsbourg. The only interlude that, if not fails, certainly flags, is Gere's sad-clown Billy the Kid. Haynes' piece doesn't always make sense (and goes on too long by 20 minutes), but, damn, it looks good – and feels good. After the Oscar "legitimacy" of *Far From Heaven*, Haynes could've burrowed deeper underground or sold out entirely; instead, he's created a dazzling hybrid. There's an undeniable thrill to watching something so experimental and yet totally accessible to those of us who speak only layman's Dylanese, and it's Haynes' warmest film yet. (11/23/2007) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Ritz, Dobie

INTO THE WILD

D: Sean Penn; with Emile Hirsch, Marcia Gay Harden, William Hurt, Jena Malone, Brian Dierker, Catherine Keener, Vince Vaughn, Kristen Stewart, Hal Holbrook. (R, 140 min.)

On April 28, 1992, a scraggly 24-year-old tramp and adventurer named Christopher McCandless walked into the Alaskan wilderness and was never heard from again. These events were brilliantly chronicled in 1996 by Jon Krakauer in his bestselling book *Into the Wild*, which was permeated by a sense of sadness and distance that left readers with the unsettling feeling that McCandless' haunted life and solitary death would remain forever unknowable. Unfortunately, an unknowable character makes for a stubborn film protagonist. And though Penn has conjured up a beautifully acted, visually bracing film that captures all the romantic energy and freedom of a life spent outside the bounds of society, somewhere along the way he misplaced that melancholy that made McCandless' story so devastating. Penn's McCandless (a wiry Hirsch) is a 21st century Hollywood hero, armed with a mouthful of self-help platitudes about following your heart and living life to the fullest but possessing precious little mystery. (10/19/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★★ Dobie

★ JUNO

D: Jason Reitman; with Ellen Page, Michael Cera, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, Allison Janney, J.K. Simmons. (PG-13, 92 min.)

When 16-year-old Juno (Page) pays for her pregnancy test with the stick still in hand, the cashier wisecracks, "This is one diddle that

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle With All-You-Can-Eat Miniburgers

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle With All-You-Can-Eat Miniburgers (2004) *D: Danny Leiner; with John Cho, Kal Penn, Paula Garcés, David Krumholtz.* (R, 87 min.) **High for the Holidays.** "Harold & Kumar consistently nails each laugh because it is, quite simply, good, dumb, stoner fun." – Kimberley Jones. Featuring authentic all-you-can-eat miniburgers (but note, there's no other food service for this show). @Alamo Ritz, Thursday (27)-Friday, 7pm.



can't be undid, home skillet." That quip, care of screenwriter and freshly minted Hot New Thing Diablo Cody, almost had me audibly groaning: So it's gonna be like that, is it? Well, yes and no. The quips keep coming, but they slow, and *Juno* settles into a sharp, winning relationship comedy. But, like everything else in the winsome *Juno*, what plays for laughs has an undeniable ring of real emotion. Spend enough time with Juno's deadpan and her irony, and you learn how to read between the lines, to the scared, confused, and royally pissed teenager underneath the brazen, Buddha-bellied exterior (a "cautionary whale," she calls herself). Page (*Hard Candy*) is marvelous, especially considering what a balancing act the role is between bitchy and twee, and she's backed by a terrific ensemble cast. (12/21/2007) – Kimberley Jones

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Dobie, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

THE KITE RUNNER

D: Marc Forster; with Khalid Abdalla, Homayoun Ershadi, Shaun Toub, Atossa Leoni, Said Tashimaoui, Ahmad Khan Mahmizada. (PG-13, 122 min.)

The screen version of Khaled Hosseini's phenomenally successful novel about friendship, betrayal, and redemption, set against the turmoil in Afghanistan during the last 30 years, is a disappointment. Screenwriter David Benioff and director Forster are faithful to the novel to a fault, retaining a level of narrative detail that bogs down the principal storyline about a haunted Afghan-American man who is blessed with the chance "to be good again" and rectify a wrong he committed years ago. The film's early scenes set up the tragic turn of events that forever separate the two childhood friends. But as the film progresses, the narrative focus gets diluted and never really recovers. Some of the improbabilities in the third act of Hosseini's book seem even more unlikely on the screen – the villain is a sadistic pedophile high in the ranks of the Taliban – and the thematic essence of the film is equally marred by the heightened melodramatics. Still, the kite-fighting sequences here are magnificent. (12/21/2007) – Steve Davis

★★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square

★ LARS AND THE REAL GIRL

D: Craig Gillespie; with Ryan Gosling, Emily Mortimer, Paul Schneider, Patricia Clarkson, Kelli Garner. (PG-13, 106 min.)

It takes a village not only to raise a child but also, in this case, to aid the delusional and help restore good mental health. This movie's premise is high concept and would be easy to dismiss were the film not so flawlessly executed. The screenplay by *Six Feet Under*'s Nancy Oliver mimics some of that show's tonal implausibilities, which nevertheless succeed here despite the odds. Gosling again displays his exacting commitment to characterization as Lars, a painfully reticent young man who shocks his family and community when he introduces them to the wheelchair-bound Bianca, a lifelike sex doll with whom he forges a chaste romantic relationship. Despite abundant opportunities for smutty gags, the film never ventures down this path, staying on its best behavior in matters of courtship and film ratings. The pitch-perfect delivery of the entire cast cannot be overstated, as their performances keep the film from straying into absurd or sickly sweet dimensions. (10/26/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Ritz

MR. BEAN'S HOLIDAY

D: Steve Bendelack; with Rowan Atkinson, Emma de Caunes, Max Baldry, Willem Dafoe, Karel Roden. (G, 88 min.)

If you like Atkinson's Mr. Bean character – his tooty yellow Mini, his busily working beetle brows, his tendency to point and grunt and eat shellfish whole – then you will be rewarded with 88 minutes of such. If you are not a fan, *Holiday* will not win you over. Not even with its references to Jacques Tati, not even with Bean's French moppet of a traveling sidekick (Baldry), not even with the winsome young actress (de Caunes) with whom Bean has a thankfully chaste attraction. At the end of the day, it's either funny when Bean chases a chicken to get back his bus ticket, or it isn't, and you know where you stand. Certainly Atkinson's flair for being Bean has not diminished, but in the final analysis, this *Holiday* is a so-so late-summer diversion, unlikely to reignite Beanmania – or repeat the previous film's boffo box office. (08/24/2007) – Marrit Ingman

★★ Movies 8

MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

D: Zach Helm; with Dustin Hoffman, Natalie Portman, Jason Bateman, Zach Mills, Ted Ludzik, Rebecca Northan, Matt Baram, Kiele Sanchez. (G, 109 min.)

Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium has whimsy coming out of its ears. Writer/director Helm is the writer of *Stranger Than Fiction*, which was also whimsical but had the common decency to be cynical, as well. Now the brakes are off, and Helm can feel free to give voice to all his passion for child-like eccentricity without all the baggage that comes with making a movie for adults. What he's come up with is a toy store run by a gleeful 200-year-old man-child (Hoffman). At his side are Molly Mahoney (Portman), a former child-prodigy; 10-year-old Eric Applebaum (Mills); and Henry Weston (Bateman), an accountant who wears a tie to work, meaning he's lost touch with his inner child (God bless him). With his incessant cackling and jiggling and adorable lisp, Hoffman is an unbearable force of nature, while Portman is disappointing as a young adult stuck in neutral. The film's one saving grace is Bateman. (11/16/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt

★★ Movies 8

★ NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN

D: Joel Coen, Ethan Coen; with Tommy Lee Jones, Javier Bardem, Josh Brolin, Kelly Macdonald, Woody Harrelson, Garret Dillahunt, Barry Corbin, Tess Harper, Stephen Root. (R, 122 min.)

It seems at first like an odd pairing: the Coen brothers, they of the dark-humored film genre confiations, and Cormac McCarthy, the modern laureate of the Southern gothic novel. Yet the Coens' adaptation of McCarthy's as-if-written-for-the-screen *No Country for Old Men* becomes a marvelous meld of sensibilities. The film is essentially a crime drama, although also something of a chase film. It holds up against the Coens' earlier genre masterpieces like *Miller's Crossing* and *Fargo* and makes recent genre misfires like *Intolerable Cruelty* and *The Ladykillers* more forgivable. The *No Country for Old Men* storyline is as old as the template for the brothers' first film, *Blood Simple*: Follow the money. At least three characters are chasing a satchel filled with \$2 million. One of them is Anton Chigurh (Bardem), a character who immediately leaps into the forefront of indelible American monsters. As it unfolds, the cat-and-mouse chase is a sheer delight to watch. The performances are captivating, too. (11/16/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse South, Arbor, Barton Creek Square, Hill Country Galleria, Southpark Meadows, Westgate

P.S. I LOVE YOU

D: Richard LaGravenese; with Hilary Swank, Gerard Butler, Gina Gershon, Lisa Kudrow, Kathy Bates, Harry Connick Jr., Jeffrey Dean Morgan, James Marsters. (PG-13, 126 min.)

LaGravenese is usually a terrific screenwriter, but this adaptation (with Steve Rogers) of Cecelia Ahern's novel is almost insufferably sufferable. It's a chick flick of the tallest order, with schmaltz galore and the sort of ongoing romantic hubris that



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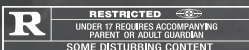
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practically screams, “This is codswallop, right?” Swank, as the grieving widow, Holly, is all knees and elbows and cheekbones and denial. Until, that is, her 30th birthday, when she receives a letter from her dead spouse, who has thoughtfully seen fit to keep the love – and by extension, the healing – flowing from beyond the grave. Together with mother-in-law Bates (doing a canny impression of Shirley MacLaine), possible new love Connick Jr. (doing an uncanny impression of Michael Cera in *Juno*), and BFFs Gershon and Kudrow, Swank embarks on a teary journey of Lifetime proportions. Hope floats all over the place in *P.S. I Love You*, but it’s Connick Jr.’s goofy, lovesick bartender who makes it all tolerable. (12/21/2007) – Marc Savlov ★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

RUSH HOUR 3

D: Brett Ratner; with Jackie Chan, Chris Tucker, Vinnie Jones, Max von Sydow, Noémie Lenoir, Hiroyuki Sanada, Youki Kudoh. (PG-13, 91 min.)

It says something that the most inspired comedic performance in *Rush Hour 3* comes from director-cum-fugitive Roman Polanski, whose turn as the head of the Parisian police arrives midway through the film: He and his flunkies torture returning inter-continental buddy cops Los Angeles Detective Carter (Tucker) and Hong Kong Inspector Lee (Chan). It’s either the most inspired *Chinatown* gag ever or a sure sign the diminutive Oscar winner has gone ‘round the bend. Either way, this third outing in the series falls flat faster than most of Chan’s goofy line readings. The film is *The Bourne Ultimatum*’s evil twin, relying, as it repeatedly does, on tired, cookie-cutter, cliché action set-pieces (Chan no longer has the sinewy grace of his younger *Police Story*-era self, nor is Tucker’s pop-eyed, horn-dog cop schtick anywhere nearly as funny as he thinks it is) and a by-the-numbers script. As it is, it just signals a series that’s plainly out of gas. (08/10/2007) – Marc Savlov ★ Movies 8

SAW IV

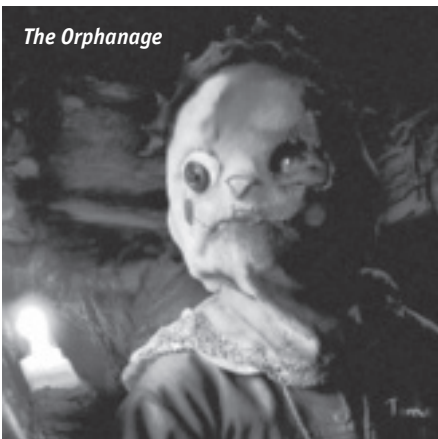
D: Darren Lynn Bousman; with Tobin Bell, Scott Patterson, Costas Mandylor, Betsy Russell. (R, 108 min.)

The series’ increasingly outlandish forays into the mindset of Rube Goldberg’s evil twin Jigsaw (Bell) coupled with the ante-upping characterization of amoral madness in the service of moral redemption – corkscrew logic but always sensibly lunatic – have made for some downright existential bloodbathing. Jigsaw died in *Saw III*, and here we get to witness his autopsy, stem to stern, thus giving him not only the last gasp and laugh, but Being and Nothingness, as well. More than most, the *Saw* films have held fast to an internal logic that only gets more complex – yet never entirely lapses into outright inanity – with each successive episodic outrage. *Saw IV* finally offers Jigsaw’s horrific backstory in flashback, an unnecessary denuding that absolves no one, least of all this fleshless engineer and his hellbound heart. Redemption, absolutism, morality: The *Saw* films speak truth to horror. Torture, you may recall, used to be an unparsable, unpardonable sin. Now it’s porn. (11/02/2007) – Marc Savlov ★★★ Movies 8

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET

D: Tim Burton; with Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Sacha Baron Cohen, Jamie Campbell Bower. (R, 117 min.)

Like some religious fanatic, Sweeney Todd (Depp) plays the same note over and over again: “Revenge, revenge, revenge,” he crows. Watching Burton’s adaptation of Stephen Sondheim’s 1979 stage musical, I was struck by just how dull violent retribution can be when it’s all someone ever talks (or, in this case, sings) about. Burton’s gorgeously grim film (his sixth with Depp) is loyal to Sondheim’s original, both in spirit and structure; it’s dark and gothic and drenched in blood, and it forgoes excessive dialogue in the name of getting quickly to the next murky, malevolent, yet strangely forgettable tune. Poor Depp, though, isn’t up to the challenge of a musical. So by the time he gets



that long-wished-for shot at restitution, I didn’t care anymore if he succeeded or not so long as he stopped singing about it. By that point I’d already decided life would be better inside a quiet meat pie. (12/21/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt ★★ Alamo Drafthouse South, Barton Creek Square, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South

TAARE ZAMEEN PAR

D: Aamir Khan; with Khan, Darsheel Safary. (NR, 162 min., subtitled)

Not reviewed at press time. In this new Bollywood picture, the director also plays the leading role in a story about the teacher of a dyslexic child. (12/21/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten Tinseltown South

THIS CHRISTMAS

D: Preston A. Whitmore II; with Delroy Lindo, Loretta Devine, Idris Elba, Chris Brown, Columbus Short, Keith Robinson, Laz Alonso, Regina King, Mekhi Phifer, Sharon Leal, Lauren London. (PG-13, 117 min.)

I have to ask: What could possibly explain the presence of two first-rate actors like Lindo and Elba in a movie as bland as *This Christmas*? They star in this glorified TV movie about an estranged family reuniting after four years to discover the true meaning of Christmas. Elba plays the Whitfield family’s prodigal son, who decides it would be best to go home for Christmas after a run-in with two impatient bookies forces him to leave town with little more than the leather cap on his head. He arrives home to find most of his family members living lives of not-so-quiet desperation. Add to the mix a couple of extended all-family dance sequences in the living room and a soundtrack composed of jazzed-up Christmas carols that will make you feel like you’re trapped in a shopping mall, and you’ve got the perfect formula for holiday cheer: It’s redemption through sentimentality, salvation through schmaltz. (11/23/2007) – Josh Rosenblatt ★★ Millennium, Tinseltown South

TYLER PERRY’S WHY DID I GET MARRIED?

D: Tyler Perry; with Perry, Sharon Leal, Janet Jackson, Malik Yoba, Jill Scott, Richard T. Jones. (PG-13, 118 min.)

In this latest effort, Perry characteristically presents himself in quadruple-threat-style as writer, director, producer, and actor. While his last film (*Tyler Perry’s Daddy’s Little Girls*) focused on one couple, this one branches out into four. Jackson plays a psychologist who vacations every winter with a group of close friends, all married couples and all dealing with much drama. As the couples vacation together, emotions run amok, dirt gets thrown, and purportedly, we all learn a little bit more about the true meaning of marriage. But frankly, I think I learned more about the true meaning of contrived melodrama. Take one abusive relationship, add some infidelity, a dead child, a mountain of guilt, several fur coats, a cat fight or two, and you’ve got yourself one hell of a melodramatic throwdown. And Perry follows these rules to the letter. (10/19/2007) – Toddy Burton ★ Movies 8

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY

D: Jake Kasdan; with John C. Reilly, Jenna Fischer, Kristin Wiig, Tim Meadows, Chris Parnell, Matt Besser, David Krumholtz, Jack Black, Paul Rudd, Jason Schwartzman, Harold Ramis, Martin Starr, John Michael Higgins. (R, 96 min.)

The creative forces behind *Walk Hard* adhere to one simple rule: If it’s funny once, it’ll be funny 10 times over. And throughout this absurdist spin on musical biopics, the good news is that sometimes they’re right. Taking cues very specifically from *Ray* and *Walk the Line*, this film spans 70 years in the life of its hero, the fictional music legend Dewey Cox (Reilly). The story follows a rise-fall-and-rise-again structure as Dewey meets the love of his life (Fischer), develops multiple drug addictions, loses his love, finds her again, and along the way falls prey to every generational music trend in the book. Whether traveling to India with the Beatles, writing protest songs, or hosting a variety show, Dewey manages to enact all the rock & roll clichés. Simultaneously dumb and enjoyable, the silliness manages at times to be both wonderful and cringe-worthy. In the end, Reilly’s oblivious swagger successfully carries much of the film. (12/21/2007) – Toddy Burton ★★★ Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, Alamo Drafthouse Village, Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Metropolitan, Tinseltown North, Westgate

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP

D: Jay Russell; with Alex Etel, Emily Watson, Ben Chaplin, David Morrissey, Priyanka Xi, Marshall Napier, Brian Cox. (PG, 111 min.)

A family film in the best sense, *Water Horse* plays like a cross between a World War II-era *Boy’s Own* adventure and *Baby: Secret of the Lost*

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Legend, minus the soppy treacle of the latter but with just the right amount of RAF fighter flybys to qualify it as a rather ripping yarn, indeed. Set on the coast of Scotland, the ingratiatingly plucky Etel plays Angus, a young dreamer whose mother and sister tend to Lord Something or Other's sprawling country estate, while he skitters around the tide pools digging up neat stuff. The discovery of a barnacle-encrusted egg reveals the titular "water horse," aka the Loch Ness beastie, and coincides with the arrival of a pair of dueling surrogate father figures for Angus. With its *Shrek*y ears and new-born, puggy snufflings, the water horse is extremely – and unthreateningly, to younger members – well designed, via CGI and more tactile effects work. Despite the title, however, this is Etel's film all the way. (12/21/2007) – Marc Savlov

★★★ Barton Creek Square, CM Cedar Park, Hill Country Galleria, CM Round Rock, Southpark Meadows, Highland, Gateway, Lakeline, Tinseltown North, Tinseltown South, Westgate

WE OWN THE NIGHT

D: James Gray; with Joaquin Phoenix, Mark Wahlberg, Robert Duvall, Eva Mendes, Antoni Corone. (R, 117 min.)

The Russian crime syndicate in New York and conflicts between brothers on opposite sides of the law: These are writer/director Gray's recurrent (redundant?) themes. That Wahlberg and Phoenix both co-starred in Gray's last film, 2000's *The Yards*, doesn't ease *We Own the Night*'s sense of déjà vu. Set in 1988 at the height of NYC's drug-fueled crime years, *We Own the Night* is rife with familiar twists. However, the combined screen presence of the dynamic Phoenix, subdued Wahlberg, and trusty Duvall lends the film a solidity it otherwise might not have had, but some of the film's period details fall short of their marks due to quibbling inaccuracies and improbabilities. Gray's signature long takes and overhead shots are in evidence and add to the film's fatalistic tone, and one rainy car-chase sequence is a real keeper. But, overall, it's impossible to shake the film's gloomy sense of eternal repetition. (10/12/2007) – Marjorie Baumgarten

★★ Movies 8

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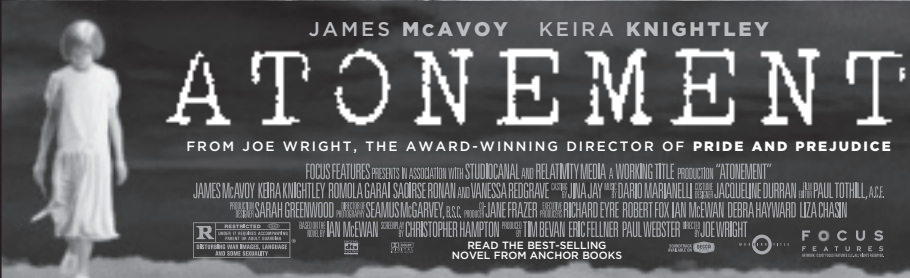
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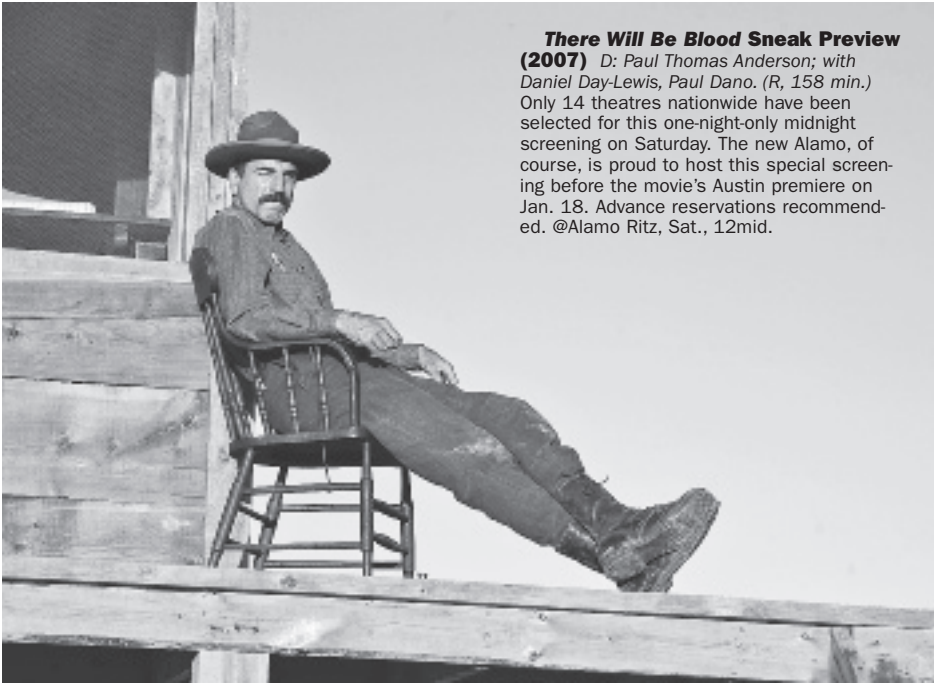
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Special Screenings

BY MARJORIE BAUMGARTEN

The symbol (*) indicates full-length reviews available online: austinchronicle.com/film.



There Will Be Blood Sneak Preview (2007) *D: Paul Thomas Anderson; with Daniel Day-Lewis, Paul Dano. (R, 158 min.)* Only 14 theatres nationwide have been selected for this one-night-only midnight screening on Saturday. The new Alamo, of course, is proud to host this special screening before the movie's Austin premiere on Jan. 18. Advance reservations recommended. @Alamo Ritz, Sat., 12mid.

THURSDAY 27

Dead Kids (1981) *D: Michael Laughlin; with Michael Murphy, Louise Fletcher, Dan Shor, Fiona Lewis, Arthur Dignam. (R, 87 min.)* **Terror Thursday.** Also known as *Strange Behavior*, this horror film features music by Tangerine Dream and a story about a scientist who is experimenting with turning college students into killers. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

Dr. Hackenstein (1988) *D: Richard Clark; with David Muir, Michael Ensign, Cathy Cahn, Stacey Travis. (R, 88 min.)* **Tromatic Thursday.** A mad scientist is using the body parts of locals to reassemble his wife. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle With All-You-Can-Eat Miniburgers (2004) See p.76.

Reefer Madness: The Movie Musical Sing-Along (2005) *D: Andy Fickman; with Kristen Bell, Christian Campbell, Neve Campbell, Alan Cumming, Ana Gasteyer. (R, 109 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** This musical is a Showtime remake of the popular propaganda film. Raise your voices and inhale. @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm.

The Wizard of Oz with Dark Side of the Moon *D: Victor Fleming; with Judy Garland, Ray Bolger, Bert Lahr, Jack Haley, Frank Morgan,*

Billie Burke, Margaret Hamilton, Charley Grapewin, Munchkins. (G, 101 min.) **High for the Holidays.** Find out whether there's really a synchronicity between Hollywood's beloved *The Wizard of Oz* and Pink Floyd's 1973 musical opus, *Dark Side of the Moon*. Supposedly, if you crank up the album with the third roar of the MGM lion, you'll enter an upside-down world of hidden meanings and trippy rabbit holes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

SPACES

Superbad (2007) *D: Greg Mottola; with Michael Cera, Jonah Hill, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Emma Stone, Martha Maclsaac, Seth Rogen, Bill Hader. (R, 114 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

FRIDAY 28

Beerfest With Beerlympics (2006) *D: Jay Chandrasekhar; with Chandrasekhar, Will Forte, Kevin Heffernan, Cloris Leachman, Steve Lemme, Mo'Nique, Eric Christian Olsen, Paul Soter, Erik Stolhanske. (R, 110 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** Before Broken Lizard's comedy film about the underground world of competitive beer drinking, there will be live Beerlympics games to get your juices flowing. @Alamo Ritz, 10pm.

(Good) Friday (1995) *D: F. Gary Gray; with Ice Cube, Chris Tucker, Nia Long, Anna Maria Horsford, Regina King, Bernie Mac, John Witherspoon. (R, 91 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** This is a cleaned-up version of the urban comedy with all the profanity stripped out and ridiculous voices dubbed in by Foleyvision's Buzz Moran. It's comedy on a whole other level. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid.

Harold & Kumar Go to White Castle With All-You-Can-Eat Miniburgers (2004) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm. (See p.76.)

Home Alone (1990) *D: Chris Columbus; with Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, John Candy, Daniel Stern. (PG, 102 min.)* **Master Pancake Theater.** Overflowing with primitive, disastrously unfunny sight gags and neo-hateful familial humor, *Home Alone* will be like catnip to the funny cats of Master Pancake. (*) @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

SATURDAY 29

Home Alone (1990) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm, 12mid. (See Fri., 12/28.)

The Rocky Horror Picture Show (1975) *D: Jim Sharman; with Richard O'Brien, Barry Bostwick, Susan Sarandon, Tim Curry. (R, 95 min.)* Austin fans have been dressing up and doing the "Time Warp" thing live for 31 years straight. For more info, see www.austinrocky.org. @Alamo Drafthouse Village, 12mid.

There Will Be Blood Sneak Preview (2007) See box at left.

SPACES

Spy Kids (2001) *D: Robert Rodriguez; with Antonio Banderas, Carla GUGINO, Alexa Vega, Daryl Sabara, Alan Cumming, Teri Hatcher, Cheech Marin, Danny Trejo, Robert Patrick, Tony Shalhoub. (PG, 90 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.

SUNDAY 30

(Good) Friday (1995) @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm. (See Fri., 12/28.)

Head (1968) *D: Bob Rafelson; with Peter Tork, Davy Jones, Micky Dolenz, Michael Nesmith, Annette Funicello, Timothy Carey. (G, 86 min.)* **High for the Holidays.** The Monkees overstepped in a most fascinating manner during their jump from the little screen to the big. Rafelson and co-conceptualist Jack Nicholson did for the Monkees what Richard Lester did for the Beatles with *A Hard Day's Night* and *Help!*: created a wacked-out, aimless universe that constantly riffs on popular culture. Not a hit at the time with the regular Monkees fans, the rarely screened *Head* has since grown in critical stature. It's also the film Rafelson and Nicholson made before their zeitgeist-defining film, *Five Easy Pieces*. With music and lots of cameos. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 7pm.

SPACES

Home Alone (1990) *D: Chris Columbus; with Macaulay Culkin, Joe Pesci, John Candy, Daniel Stern. (PG, 102 min.)* Dinner specials. Hosted by Jerm Pollet. @Belmont, 8pm; free.

MONDAY 31

SPACES

The Wager (2007) See p.75.

TUESDAY 01

SPACES

The Bourne Supremacy (2004) *D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Franka Potente, Brian Cox, Joan Allen, Julia Stiles, Karl Urban, Gabriel Mann. (PG-13, 108 min.)* Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm

WEDNESDAY 02

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007)

D: Ridley Scott; with Harrison Ford, Sean Young, Rutger Hauer, Daryl Hannah, Edward James Olmos, M. Emmet Walsh, William Sanderson, Joanna Cassidy, Brion James. (R, 117 min.) Recut more times than a plastic-surgery junkie, *Blade Runner: The Final Cut* promises to be exactly what its title promises: director Scott's last word on the subject. Cops and androids fight it out in 21st century L.A. in this Philip K. Dick film adaptation with fabulous art direction. This remastered and subtly rejiggered print is most notable for its inclusion of the "scene with the unicorn," which makes abundantly clear that Ford's blade runner is indeed an android and not a human. The film remains a landmark spectacle. @Paramount, 7:30pm; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors.

Death Laid an Egg (1968) *D: Giulio Questi; with Gina Lollobrigida, Jean-Louis Trintignant, Ewa Aulin. (R, 86 min.)* **Weird Wednesday.** This Italian giallo thriller is set on a high tech chicken farm run by a wife and husband, who makes a sideline of killing prostitutes. (*) @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

Robin Hood (1973) *D: Wolfgang Reitherman; with the voices of Brian Bedford, Phil Harris, Peter Ustinov, Terry-Thomas, Monica Evans. (G, 83 min.)* Free. @Rounders Pizzeria, 6:30pm.

IMAX Theatre

For ticket prices call 936-IMAX or 936-TSHM or see www.thestoryoftexas.com. See Showtimes for dates and times.

Santa vs. the Snowman 3D (2002)

D: John A. Davis; with the voices of Steve Oedekerk, Ben Stein, Victoria Jackson, Jonathan Winters. (G, 37 min.) Made by the same creative team behind *Jimmy Neutron*, the movie is an entertaining kids diversion, although its hardcore sentiments may prove a bit off-putting. Voice contributions by Winters and Stein help buoy the film cartoon's humor. (*)

Sea Monsters 3D: A Prehistoric Adventure (2007) *D: Sean MacLeod Phillips; narrated by Liev Schreiber. (NR, 40 min.)* National Geographic uses photo-realistic, computer-generated, 3-D animation to transport audiences back to the late Cretaceous period more than 65 million years ago, when a great inland sea divided North America in two. (*)

Texas: The Big Picture (2003)

D: Scott Swofford; narrated by Colby Donaldson. (NR, 39 min.) Panoramic shots of Texas grace the screen as Texas is shown to be a land capable of growing everything from grapefruit to microchips.

The Polar Express: An IMAX 3-D Experience (2004) *D: Robert Zemeckis; with Tom Hanks, Michael Jeter, Peter Scolar, Nona Gaye, Eddie Deezen. (G, 100 min.)* Chris Van Allsburg's magical tale of the Christmas Eve re-education of a Santa-doubting adolescent returns to the big screen in all its dimensions. (*)

Wildfire: Feel the Heat (1999)

D: Mike Slee; narrated by Andre Braugher. (NR, 40 min.) Crews put out really big fires around the world.

Offscreen

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Kids and Teens Holiday Camp Let your children find out what it's like to be a film and television actor as they work on scenes and monologues, simulate auditions, learn how to read commercial copy, and create characters through writing exercises. *Wed-Fri., Jan. 2-4. \$135. www.thebizonline.com.*

Reel Women: First Monday Mix Here's 2008's first monthly gathering to mix, mingle, eat, drink, brag, and commiserate with Reel Women members and their media-savvy friends. *Mon., Jan. 7, 6-8pm. Opal Divine's, 700 W. Sixth, 477-3308. Free. www.opaldvines.com.*

Rewind Kindly: A Filmmaking Competition Inspired by the upcoming Michel Gondry feature, *Be Kind Rewind*, this competition challenges you to remake (in a five-minute version of low-budget glory) any popular Hollywood film. Entries will be screened at the Alamo Drafthouse, and the winning films will get cash and AMD/Dell hardware. See website for details. Deadline: *Jan. 18. www.filmmakingfrenzy.com.*

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See Film Afresh: Women Who Kill In this four-class series, UT's Richard Cutler introduces and leads discussions on *Thelma & Louise*, *La Femme Nikita*, and two other films, exploring the themes and cinematic techniques that portray women as killers. *Jan. 8-29. Tuesdays, 6-9pm. Dougherty Arts Center, 1110 Barton Springs Rd., 397-1458. \$60. www.doughertyartscenter.org.*

The Screenplay Workshop: January Classes Forming Austin's only nondegree program dedicated to screenwriting is registering students for six-week classes that begin in January: feature-film screenwriting (*Mondays, 7-10pm, or Saturdays, 1-4pm*) and screenwriting according to the masters (*Tuesdays, 7-9pm*). Classes comprise lectures, film-clip viewing, and in-class writing exercises, taught by professional screenwriters. See their website for details. www.thescreenplayworkshop.org.

THURSDAY 03

The 90s One-Hit Wonders Sing-Along:
Vol. 2 @Alamo Ritz, 9:45pm, 12mid.

Blade Runner: The Final Cut (2007)
@Paramount, 7:30pm; \$8, \$6 children/students/seniors; see www.austintheatre.org/site/Calendar/635257780?view=Detail&id=14407 for special Film Fan commemorative tickets.
(See Wed., 1/2.)

Superstarlet A.D. (2000) D: John Michael McCarthy; with Kerine Elkins, Gina Velour, Michèle Carr, Rita D'Albert. (NR, 70 min.) **Tromatic Thursday.** Big-haired bad girls rule in this film's postapocalyptic world. @Alamo Drafthouse Lake Creek, 10pm; free.

Tourist Trap (1979) D: David Schmoeller; with Chuck Connors, Jocelyn Jones, Jon Van Ness, Robin Sherwood, Tanya Roberts. (PG, 90 min.) **Terror Thursday.** The mannequins in a shut-in's mansion are animated by telekinetic powers and go crazy when some people come looking for their missing friend. Director Schmoeller attended UT before making this film. @Alamo Ritz, 12mid; free.

SPACES

The Bourne Ultimatum (2007) D: Paul Greengrass; with Matt Damon, Julia Stiles, David Strathairn, Scott Glenn, Paddy Considine, Edgar Ramirez, Albert Finney, Joan Allen. (PG-13, 111 min.) Free. (*) @Rounders Pizzeria, 8pm.

Check Film Listings online
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SUBMISSION INFORMATION:

The *Austin Chronicle* is published every Thursday. Info is due the Monday of the week prior to the issue date. **The deadline for the Jan. 11 issue is Monday, Dec. 31.** Include name of event, date, time, location, price, phone number(s), a description, and any available photos or artwork.

Send submissions to the *Chronicle*, PO Box 49066, Austin, 78765, fax 458-6910, or e-mail.

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ATX, MONDAY 31

It's time for retrospection. The question is: What kind of year was 2007, and how do you want to frame it? Had a crazy year and yearning for the comfort of tradition? Honky-tonk troubadour **Dale Watson & His Lone Stars** hit the witching hour at the Continental Club with **Jon Dee Graham** warming the mic at 10pm. Sweat it out on the Eastside with **Larry Lange & His Lonely Knights** painting an old-school 1960s vibe at the Moose Lodge (2103 E.M. Franklin) with a midnight Champagne toast (www.frontgatetickets.com). And down South, **Alvin Crow** defines hardcore country at the Broken Spoke. Not quite a shit-kicker but pissed at the world? The punk rockers fuck up "Auld Lang Syne" real good with **Dead End Cruisers**, **Ignorance Park**, the **Bulemics**, and **Teen Cool** at Room 710. Rub some dirt on it

Bruce Robison BROKEN SPOKE, FRIDAY 28

It's been a good year for Bruce Robison, with the release of *It Came From San Antonio* drawing praise and, most recently, another run of successful annual holiday shows with wife Kelly Willis. At the Broken Spoke, the lanky local is sure to set boots a-scootin' with tunes from his trad-country side while posing the eternal question, "What Would Willie Do?" — *Jim Caligiuri*

Red & White Winter Party

EMO'S, FRIDAY 28

The only thing more depressing than the holidays are the days lingering between Christmas and the new year, but Emo's leaves the lights up for a pair of locals, slurring blues-rock stompers the Black and neon swaying Red Leaves. Those Voxtradians keep a yule log burning as a one-off Christmas Special, but don't expect traditional tunes. Newborn conglomerate School Police, members of the Hunnies and Belaire, starts things off. — *Darcie Stevens*



The Blaggards FADÓ, SATURDAY 29

If it's been awhile since you hoisted a pint to "What Do You Do With a Drunken Sailor" or wept over your Jameson to "Prison Love Songs," hie thee to Fadó, where Houston bad boys of stout Irish rock the Blaggards hold court. Ever since Austin's Irish fiddle heartthrob Chris Buckley joined with vocalist Patrick Devlin, they've fronted a formidable quartet. Catch 'em New Year's Eve, too. — *Margaret Moser*

with one-man truckin' band **Scott H. Biram**, **Flametricks Subs**, and the **Hotrod Hillbillies** outside at Emo's, and don't forget front-row rock lady Wendy WWAD's 40th birthday with **Bible of the Devil**, **Dixie Witch**, the **Suplecs**, and **Black Gasoline** inside. Can you make Jäger bombs with bubbly? Red River's got you covered with the **Laughing** and Florida raunch-rap trio **Yo Majesty** at the Beauty Bar and the kickass revival of **Black Joe Lewis & the Honey Bears** with **White Denim**, **Brazos**, and **Pink Nasty** at the Mohawk. And there's a retro soul throw-down at the Scoot Inn's **Sock Hop New Year's Eve Party**, no bands included. The Monarch Event Center's first New Year's Ball destroys borders with the **Académicos da Ópera Samba School** shaking it Brazilian-style, the Colombian cumbia of **Cerronato**, the **Lannaya African Drum and Dance Troupe**, and Austin Music Award winners **Grupo Fantasma**. It's a vision of 2008: no rules, no worries. — *Darcie Stevens*

Visit Community Listings, p.60, for more NYE events.

Tenor Madness ELEPHANT ROOM, SATURDAY 29

Dexter Gordon and Wardell Gray. Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt. Johnny Griffin and Lockjaw Davis. Let's not forget Sonny Rollins and John Coltrane. One of the most exciting matchups jazz can offer is two saxophonists locking horns in friendly and competitive battle. It's an age-old tradition, and Austin veterans Alex Coke and Tony Campise are sure to generate heat when they team up for a night of incendiary interplay. — *Jay Trachtenberg*

Rusted Shut, Rubble, Black Mayonnaise

EMO'S, SUNDAY 30

What a lineup to close out a year of vanilla-scented adult love songs and feel-good haircut rock, and it's free, to boot. The long-awaited return of Austin's psychphiles Rubble promises the quintet's debut on King Coffey's Latino Buggerville imprint in '08, and local legend Ralph White joins the sonic destruction live. Ohio's one-man devastator Black Mayonnaise spoons out the gooeey doom, and headlining Houston trio Rusted Shut, well, who knows what they'll do, but it'll be loud and uncomfortable. All that, plus a special Pimp C DJ tribute between sets. — *Audra Schroeder*

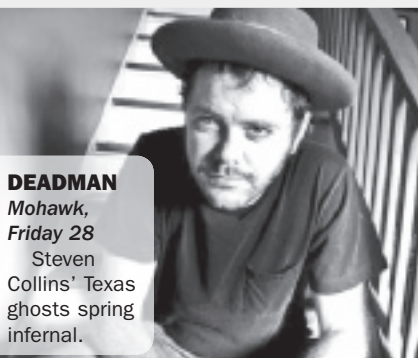
Dr. John, Hannibal Lokumbe

HYATT LOST PINES RESORT, SUNDAY 30

Ring in the new year one night early in Bastrop with Dr. John. As a part of the Live at Lost Pines concert series, the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort presents the Night Tripper himself in this evening of bon ton Party Gras. Bastrop resident and Katrina transplant Hannibal Lokumbe opens with a 70-piece community choir he's assembled for his latest commission, the soul-stirring "Land of Mercy, Land of Tears." 7:30pm, www.visitlostpines.com. — *Kate X. Messer*



Soundcheck BY AUDRA SCHROEDER



DEADMAN
Mohawk,
Friday 28
Steven
Collins' Texas
ghosts spring
infernally.

FREDDIE STEADY'S FRONTIER-A-GO-GO
Ruta Maya, Friday 28

Sweat to the oldies, with special guest emcee Beatle Bob.

DIAMOND SMUGGLERS
Continental Club,
Saturday 29

Pull on the tight pants for a yearly naughty prayer to St. Neil (Diamond).

OLD 97'S
La Zona Rosa,
Saturday 29

Those Dallas boys and their honky-tonk holidays.

GREAT NORTHERN GUNS, FOLLOW THAT BIRD!
Beerland, Sunday 30

The local Guns shoot out the feedback; the lady Birds channel Sleater-Kinney.

THE SERVICE INDUSTRY, THE IDEALS
Room 710, Thursday 3

Hunter Darby's creamy pop attack on "the customer is always right," plus punk platters from the Ideals and Comanche Abortion.

SUZANNA CHOFFEL, JADE DAY
Hole in the Wall, Thursday 3

Two great Austin voices fill the Hole, with headliners Dave Madden and David Newbould.

AUBREY EDWARDS



White Denim

Kathleen Edwards

CONTINENTAL CLUB, TUESDAY 1

If you've been waiting for the follow-up to Edwards' 2005 smashing tale of self-confidence and triumph, *Back to Me*, expect tunes from the songwriter's upcoming *Asking for Flowers*.

The LeRoi Brothers play before; pop god David Garza — hand-picked by Fiona Apple to open her gigs last year — follows Edwards in the rootsy trifecta. — *Margaret Moser*



Emo's Free Week, Part 1

EMO'S, WEDNESDAY 2-THURSDAY 3

Annually now, Emo's lets the unwashed masses in for Free Week and christens the first slab of the year in sweat and spilled Lone

Star. Wednesday's hardcore kickoff of punk and metal — **Bastard Sons of Apocalypse**, **Judas**, **Sacred Shock**, and **Terror Management Theory** — changes hands with the more toe-tap-happy sounds of **Built by Snow**, **Golden Bear**, **Jets Under Fire**, **Fulton Read**, and **Hundred Year Storm** in the Lounge. Thursday, **Attack Formation** and **Camp X-Ray** headline the circus inside; the **Score** and **Fall Collection** punk the Lounge; and **Prom Nite**, **Faceless Werewolves**, and more trash talk outside. Stay tuned next week. — *Audra Schroeder*

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INDEPENDENT BREWERY



SHINER TOP TEN TEXAS ARTISTS



- 1) IRON & WINE
Shepherds Dog
- 2) SPOON
Ga Ga Ga Ga Ga
- 3) LYLE LOVETT
& HIS LARGE BAND
It's Not Big, It's Large
- 4) BOBBIE NELSON
Audiobiography
- 5) TONI PRICE
Talk Memphis
- 6) OMAR KENT DYKES
& JIMMIE VAUGHAN
On the Jimmy Reed
Highway
- 7) RUTHIE FOSTER
The Phenomenal
Ruthie Foster
- 8) STEVIE RAY VAUGHAN
Solos, Sessions
& Encores
- 9) GHOSTLAND
OBSERVATORY
Paparazzi Lightning
- 10) OCTOPUS PROJECT
Hello Avalanche



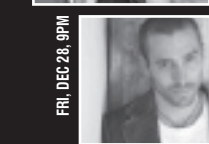
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**NANO
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**BERNIE
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YEAR'S
EVE!**

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!
DERRICK
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Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR, 3600 Presidential,
530-ABIA (2242)

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET, 3600
Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)

ABIA: WATERLOO RECORDS/AUSTIN CITY LIMITS,
3600 Presidential, 530-ABIA (2242)

AGAVE, 415 E. Sixth, 469-7892

THE ALLIGATOR GRILL, 3003 S. Lamar, 444-6117

ANTONE'S, 213 W. Fifth, 320-8424

APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL, 3001 N.
I-35, Round Rock, 512/388-7353

ARTZ RIB HOUSE, 2330 S. Lamar, 442-8283

AUSTIN CROWNE PLAZA, 6121 N. I-35, 323-5466

AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET DOWNTOWN, Fourth and
Guadalupe, 236-0074

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735, 2103 E.M. Franklin,
926-0043

AUSTIN'S PIZZA, 1817 S. Lamar, 795-8888

B.B. ROVERS, 12636 Research Ste. B-101, 335-9504

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB, 204 E. Sixth, 494-1335

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3, 5610 N. I-35, 302-1366

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5, 9505-B Stonelake, 795-9000

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER, 1008 Water, Bastrop,
512/321-7907

BEAUTY BAR, 617 E. Seventh, 391-1943

BEERLAND, 711½ Red River, 479-ROCK

THE BELMONT, 305 W. Sixth, 457-0300

BENNIGAN'S, 301 Barton Springs Rd., 472-7902

BOOMERZ, 6148 Hwy. 290 W., 892-3373

'BOUT TIME, 9601 N. I-35, 832-5339

BROKEN SPOKE, 3201 S. Lamar, 442-6189

THE BROWN BAR, 201 W. Eighth, 480-8330

CACTUS CAFE, Texas Union, UT campus, 475-6515

CAFE CAFFEINE, 909 W. Mary, 447-9473

CAFE MUNDI, 1704 E. Fifth #100, 236-8634

THE CANARY ROOST, 11900 Metric, 836-6360

CAROUSEL LOUNGE, 1110 E. 52nd, 452-6790

CEDAR STREET, 208 W. Fourth, 495-9669

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH, 4001 N. Lamar, 206-1000

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH, 4477 S. Lamar, 899-4300

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San Marcos, 512/353-3777

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO, 5406 Balcones,
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CINDY'S GONE HOG WILD, 5496 Hwy. 71 E., Cedar
Creek, 512/247-4600

CLUB 973, 104 W. Carrie, Manor, 512/350-8724

CLUB IN THE MIX, 2355 Hwy. 71 E., 389-1507

CLUB ONE 15, 115 San Jacinto, 480-0254

CONTINENTAL CLUB, 1315 S. Congress, 441-2444

COOL RIVER CAFE, 4001 Parmer, 835-0010

COPA BAR & GRILL, 217 Congress, 479-5002

COTTON CLUB, 212 E. Davilla, Granger, 512/859-0700

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE, 606 E. Seventh, 480-5988

CUBA LIBRE, 409 Colorado, 472-2822

DONN'S DEPOT, 1600 W. Fifth, 478-0336

DOÑA EMILIA'S SOUTH AMERICAN BAR & GRILL,
101 San Jacinto, 478-2520

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE, 301 E. Fifth, 472-1860

EGO'S, 510 S. Congress, 474-7091

EL SOL Y LA LUNA, 1224 S. Congress, 444-7770

ELEPHANT ROOM, 315 Congress, 473-2279

ELYSIUM, 705 Red River, 478-2979

EMO'S, 603 Red River, 477-3667

EVANGELINE CAFE, 8106 Brodie #110, 282-2586

FADÓ, 214 W. Fourth, 457-0172

FLAMINGO CANTINA, 515 E. Sixth, 494-9336

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE, 4600 Guadalupe,
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HOLE IN THE WALL, 2538 Guadalupe, 477-4747

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL, 1779 Wells Branch #114,
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HYATT LOST PINES RESORT & SPA, 575 Lost Pines Rd.,
Lost Pines, 512/308-1234

JO'S COFFEE, 1300 S. Congress, 444-3800

JOHNNY FINS, 16405 Clara Van Trail, 266-2811

JOVITA'S, 1619 S. First, 447-7825

JP'S JAVA, 2803 San Jacinto, 494-0015

LA PALAPA, 6640 Hwy. 290, 459-8729

LA ZONA ROSA, 612 W. Fourth, 472-2293

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LOUIE'S 106, 106 E. Sixth, 476-1997

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MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL, 1900 Rio Grande, 495-1800

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MOMO'S, 618 W. Sixth, 479-8848

MONARCH EVENT CENTER, 6406 N. I-35 #3100,
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NINETY PROOF, 333 E. Second, 494-9090

NORTH BY NORTHWEST, 10010 Capital of TX Hwy. N.,
467-6969

NUEVO LEON, 1501 E. Sixth, 479-0097

NUNO'S ON SIXTH, 422 E. Sixth, 833-5133

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RED FEZ, 209-B W. Fifth, 478-5120

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB, 9901 Capital of TX Hwy.
N., 342-7977

RENAISSANCE HOTEL, 9721 Arboretum, 343-2626

RILEY'S TAVERN, 8894 FM 1102, Hunter, 512/392-3132

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Y BAR & GRILL, 7720 Hwy. 71 W., 394-0220

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Friday, Dec. 28, 9pm

Robert Earl Keen

La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, lazonarosa.com



Saturday, Dec. 29, 8pm

OLD 97'S

La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, lazonarosa.com



Monday, Dec. 31, 9pm

recklesskelly

La Zona Rosa, 612 W. Fourth, lazonarosa.com



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KELLER WILLIAMS AND BROSGRAB 26

ROBIN TROWERGRAB 27

MOLOTOVGRAB 13

RODRIGO Y GABRIELAFEB 16

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club listings

Thu 27

219 WEST (8:00)

Acoustic Jungle

311 CLUB (8:30)

Joe Valentine

ABIA: EARL CAMPBELL'S SPORTS BAR (3:30)

Hudson Mueller

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR (3:30)

Sunset Valley Boys

ABIA: LEFTY'S BAR & GRILLE ON SIXTH STREET (12:30)

Brian Hudson

ANTONE'S (9:00)

Arc Angels

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 (9:00)

Homer Henderson

THE BELMONT (8:00)

Dysfunkshun Junkshun

BENNIGAN'S (7:00)

Andy Fiegall

BROKEN SPOKE

Jesse Dayton

THE BROWN BAR

DJ gmau

CAFE CAFFEINE (8:00)

Adrian Nye

CAROUSEL LOUNGE

George Kinney & the Cedar Creekers, Jessica Graves, World Racketeering Squad

CEDAR STREET (6:00)

Kent Mayhew, Radiostar

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH (6:30)

Roger Wallace

CLUB ONE 15

Mudphonic, Topaz

CONTINENTAL CLUB

Gallery: Trio Galleria; In the Club: Nathan Singleton's Sideshow Tragedy, O.A., Dustin Welch (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE

The Max

COPA BAR & GRILL (8:00)

Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew

COTTON CLUB (8:30)

Texas All-Stars

DONN'S DEPOT

Murphy's Inlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE

Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

EGO'S (6:00)

Billy Dee, 2 Hoots & a Holler

ELEPHANT ROOM (6:00)

Joe Cordi, David Chenu Quintet

EVANGELINE CAFE (7:00)

Craig Toungeate

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE (8:00)

Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones

GIDDY UPS (8:30)

Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON (9:00)

Dale Watson

GRUENE HALL (1:00), (6:00)

Ed Jurdi, Rob Roy Parnell

GÜERO'S TACO BAR (6:30)

Johnny Gimble

HANOVER'S (w/ Dan the Man)

Karaoke

HEADHUNTERS (Supercrash)

Joker

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE

Enrique Rumiche & the Peruvastaurus Rexes (9:30)

HILL'S CAFE (7:00)

Brent Allen

HOLE IN THE WALL

Corrina's Dreamland Band, Albino Black Cat (10:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL

Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S (8:00)

The Cornell Hurd Band

LAMBERTS (6:30), (10:30)

Glover Tango, Suzanna Choffel

THE LOADING DOCK

Breezy

LUCKY LOUNGE

Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Subrosa Union

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS (7:00)

Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay

MEOW

Matt Wilson

MOMO'S (8:00)

David Scher, Shawn Fussell, Dedringers, Ricky Stein

NORTH BY NORTHWEST (6:30)

Harry Bodine

ONE 2 ONE BAR (10:00)

AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session

THE PARLOR

Knights

PATSY'S COWGIRL CAFE (8:00)

Joel Hofmann

Acts are chronologically listed. Schedules are subject to change, so please call clubs to confirm lineup. Times are given where known and are PM unless otherwise noted.

LISTINGS ARE FREE AND ARE PRINTED ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS.

HELLO, CLUBS AND BANDS: Club listings deadline is Monday, 9am, for that week's issue, published on Thursday. Send venue name, address, phone number, acts, and times to: Club Listings, PO Box 49066, Austin, TX 78765; fax 458-6910; phone 454-5766 x159; or e-mail clubs@austinchronicle.com.

RED EYED FLY

Manifesto

RED FEZ

Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB (7:30)

Date Night w/ Dale Watson

RENAISSANCE HOTEL (6:00)

Lounge: Rich DeMarco

RILEY'S TAVERN

Flywood

THE ROCK ROOM

Karaoke w/ DJ Trip

ROOM 710

Titty Babies, the Skeletons, Black Jesus

RUTA MAYA (9:30)

Holidub w/ Green Belt Soundssystem, McPullish

SAXON PUB

The Fabs, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, 11-Fingered Charlie (6:00)

SHENANIGANS

Karaoke w/ Billy D.

STUBB'S

Ars Supernova, the Frontier Brothers, Plane of Existence

T.C.'S LOUNGE

Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL

Brandon Raines, Carson Alexander

roadshows

DECEMBER

THU 27

Joker, Headhunters

Matt Wilson, Meow

Harry Bodine, North by Northwest

Babelfish, Evak 1, Triple Crown

Autons, Trophy's

FRI 28

Plexi-3, Beerland

Possessed by Paul James, Hole in the Wall

Deadman, Mohawk

Marcus Rubio, the Parlor

Judas Bear, Room 710

The Royalty, the Lusitania, Trophy's

SAT 29

Blue Squeezebox, Carousel Lounge

Queen City Rollers, A Future Unlived, Club One 15

Etta Vendetta's Eyeful Tower, Knuckle Yummy, Continental Club

SUN 30

Hit & Run, Headhunters

Old 97's, La Zona Rosa

Golden Triangle, the Opera House

Tristero, the Parlor

Kritickill, Red Eyed Fly

Sakrefix, Room 710

The Halo Error, B-Boy City, Ruta Maya

Sideshow Tramps, Saxon Pub

Savor, Frenetica, Karnival, Trophy's

MON 31

Yo Majesty, Beauty Bar

New Monsoon, Club One 15

Suplecs, Black Gasoline, Emo's

Matt Wilson, Meow

Eric Scholwinski, Boo Williams, Ninety Proof

Brave Combo, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

JANUARY

TUE 1

Colin Cripps, Kathleen Edwards, Continental Club

Dead & Divine, Novista, Royal Line, Red 7

A Corpse Vanishes, Red Eyed Fly

WED 2

Fulton Read, Emo's

THU 3

Horn of Africa, Emo's

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.

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**CORINA RACHEL
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New Year's Eve Menu

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Every Thurs, Fri, & Sat

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EVERY DAY**

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EVE PARTY
2008**




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club listings ◀◀ FROM THURSDAY

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL

Lucky Strikes (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN

Phil Stevens, Evak 1, Babelfish, Master Tape

TROPHY'S

Autons, Rage Against the Doo, the Earthtone Players

WHISKY BAR

Butcher Bear, the Snake Trap, Thulsa Doom

Z'TEJAS

Lucky Strikes (6:00)

BOOMERZ

8 Ball Down

'BOUT TIME

DJ Element

BROKEN SPOKE

Bruce Robison

CAFE CAFFEINE

Ryan Davis

(9:00)

THE CANARY ROOST

Karaoke

w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE

The Fire Marshals of Bethlehem

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH

Cienfuegos (6:30)

CINDY'S GONE HOG WILD

Boogie Monsters (9:00)

CLUB IN THE MIX

Alfonso Ramos

CLUB ONE 15

Opal Cliff (10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB

Gallery:

Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio; In the Club: The Blues Specialists (6:30), Little Mikey & the Sodajerks, White Ghost Shivers (10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE

The Sophisticates (9:00)

COTTON CLUB

Doug Moreland

(8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT

Donn & the Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE

Marc Devine Trio (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM

The Brew

(9:30)

ELYSIUM

P.D.A.

EMO'S

Red & White Christmas

Party w/ School Police, Christmas Special, Red Leaves, the Black

EVANGELINE CAFE

Redd

Volkaert (10:00)

FADÓ

The Blaggards (10:00)

THE BELMONT

Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings (9:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA

Maneja Beto

FURR'S FAMILY DINING

Carlton Lombard (6:00)

GIDDY UPS

Don Turnley, Shotgun House

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN

SALOON James Hand (9:00)

GRUENE HALL

Zach Walther & the Cronkites, Bob Schneider

(8:00)

GUERO'S TACO BAR

Jane Bond & Chad Tracy (6:30)

HANOVER'S

Kevin Havron, Jay Dirks (8:30)

HEADHUNTERS

Full Stride, For the Most Part, Devola

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE

Adam Buhrman (6:15)

HILL'S CAFE

Andy Bertelsen, Texas Renegade

HOLE IN THE WALL

Possessed by Paul James, Big Foot

Chester (10:30)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL

Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S

Cerronato, Bocastria

(7:30)

JP'S JAVA

Jenny Elder (7:00)

LA PALAPA

Karaoke w/ Big Jim

(8:00)

LA ZONA ROSARobert Earl Keen *Chrontourage* event

(9:00)

LAMBERTS

Johnny Hootrock, Cardinal Cyn & Sideshow

Burlesque, Chadd Thomas & the Crazy Kings, the Electric

Mountain Rotten Apple Gang

(10:30)

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR

Matt Delrossi

Celebrate New Year's Eve
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Join us from 7 pm until 2 am, but don't be late for the

Chef's 5 course dining experience starting at 7:30

Entertainment by DJ Faith Gay and The Reflex

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NEW YEAR'S 2008

with

Grupo Fantasma

LANNAYA
african drum & dance troupeAcadêmicos da Ópera
Brazilian Batucada

Cerronato

+

DJ Bird Peterson

Hosted by Paul Saucido of



December 31st - 9:00pm

@ The Monarch Event Center

Tickets \$35 in advance - \$45 at the door

Buy tickets @ Frontgatetickets.com, Waterloo Records, Stubbs
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Thursday 12.27.07 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
ADRIAN CROOM PRESENTS:
ATH BEAT BATTLE '07 CHAMPIONSHIP
FEATURING THE HOTTEST LOCAL MC's & PRODUCERS

Friday 12.28.07 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
MANEJA BETO
MICE & RIFLES
DJ MANOLO BLACK

Saturday 12.29.07 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
PHYSIQUE PUMICHE & LA SUPERTRIA DE TIGRE
with The Rescue Mission and Annabella

Monday 12.31.07 Doors 9:00, Show 9:30
2008
ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL with
GRIMY STYLES - THE MAU MAU CHAPLAINS
DR. DUBBIST - WINSTON'S COOKING - 12.31.07

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FRIDAY 28
.....
Sick & Friends

SUN 30 >> The Dialtones

MON 31 >> New Year's Eve!
Closing at 10pm

TUE 01 >> Every Tuesday
Erik Hokkanen's Laboratory

TRIANGLE LOCATION
4600 Guadalupe • 512.380.0097
.....
Every THU >> Matt the Electrician
and Southpaw Jones

MON 31 >> New Year's Eve
Closing at 10pm

Saxon Pub
1320 S Lamar www.thesaxonpub.com 448-2552

CAROLYN WONDERLAND
GEORGE DEVORE
11 FINGERED CHARLIE 12:30 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The FAB5
Thursday Dec. 27

ASYLUM STREET SPANKERS
TWO SHOWS!
9:00 & 12:00
\$15 COVER
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 with The REGULARS
Friday Dec. 28

HAYES CARLL
12:00 \$12
JOHN EVANS
10:45 \$12
SIDESHOW TRAMPS
9:30 \$12
THE DEDRINGERS
8:00 \$12
Saturday Dec. 29

THE RESENTMENTS
7:00 \$5 cover
WALTER TRAGERT THE SALINGERS
10:00 12:00
Sunday Dec. 30

CELEBRATE
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH
THE SAXON PUB
MONTE MONTGOMERY
& **PAULA NELSON \$20.00**
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
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HAPPY NEW YEAR
FROM THE SAXON PUB!
WE WILL BE CLOSED
NEW YEAR'S DAY, JAN. 1

MONTE MONTGOMERY
10:00 \$10 cover
PAULA NELSON 8:00 \$5
MEAGAN TUBB 12:00 \$5
No Cover Happy Hour 6:00 Hours Frank & the Auslanders
Wednesday, Jan. 2

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(512) 396-2236 / www.triplecrownlive.com

Th 27 Phil Stevens 6pm
Master Tape, Babel Fishh, EVAK1 9pm

Fr 28 RC Banks 6pm
Jamie Krueger Group 9pm

Sa 29 Scott Biram 10pm

Su 30 Open Mic w/ Pat, Holly & Nate 8pm

Mo 31 Wasted Youth 9pm

Tu 1 Blue Dog 6pm
Three Leaf, Frontier Brothers,
Plasticine Porters - Free Show 9pm

We 2 Scott Wood 6pm
Free Juke Box & Free Pool 8pm

Th 3 Eric Hisaw 6pm
Perseph 1, Pat Roberts 10pm

Fr 4 Buck Jones & the Haggards 6pm
Lug, Manifesto 10pm

Sa 5 Word Association,
Jaysin w/ Melody Murder 10pm

ALL ARE WELCOME
Mohawk
AUSTIN • TEXAS
SMOKE SIGNAL

THU 27 DEC
INSIDE MOSES & THE BURNING BUSH,
FACELESS WEREWOLVES, MANEJA
BETO, CRAZY SEXY RAINBOW

FRI 28 DEC
INSIDE **THE CUTAWAY**
CRASH GALLERY, DEADMAN

SAT 29 DEC
INSIDE **THE ALWAYS ALREADY**
DANNY MALONE

MON 31 DEC
IN & OUTSIDE TRANSMISSION AND THE ONION PRESENT:
NEW YEAR'S EVE
GET DOWN WITH BLACK JOE LEWIS &
THE HONEYBEARS, WHITE DENIM,
BRAZOS, PINK NASTY & DJ YAKLES

FRI 04 JAN
INSIDE **THE VAN BUREN BOYS**
+ MORE

SAT 05 JAN
IN & OUTSIDE CENTRAL BOOKING PRESENTS:
THE PARTY

THU 10 JAN
INSIDE **DANNY MALONE**
THE DEWAYN BROTHERS
RYAN PERREY

FRI 11 JAN
INSIDE **I KILL CARS**

SAT 12 JAN
INSIDE **TRANSONA 5, THE THEATER**
FIRE, QUIET, LOVELY, ALL IN
THE GOLDEN AFTERNOON

SUN 13 JAN
INSIDE **PEEL, THE POISON CONTROL**
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THU DEC 27
PLANT OF EXISTENCE
WITH **GOLD TEETH FOR GUCCI**
AND **ARS SUPERNOVA**

SAT DEC 29
NEXT MUSIC AUSTIN. A BENEFIT
FOR THE SIMS FOUNDATION

FEATURING
THE HYDMEN
THE DIVING CAPTAIN
AND **ROCKSTROH**

SUN DEC 30
GOSPEL BRUNCH
WITH
THE SHIELDS OF FAITH

MON DEC 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH
SOUTH AUSTIN JUG BAND
AND **DIEBIRBYBIRD**
TICKET INCLUDES FREE
BBQ, BUFFET AT 9:30PM
AND CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT 12AM
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

FRI JAN 4
LOWLINE CALLER
WITH **FLAT PEOPLE**
AND **DOUG BURR**

THU JAN 10
LANGUAGE ROOM
WITH **ELIOT FITZGERALD**

FRI JAN 11
DREAM THE END
WITH **SPACE CADET** AND **EMBER**

THU JAN 17
COREY SMITH

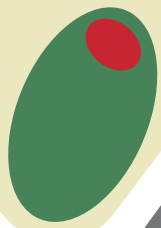
FRI JAN 18
BACKDOOR SLAM

TUE JAN 22
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WED JAN 23
GRACE POTTER
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club listings ◀◀ FROM FRIDAY

LUCKY LOUNGE Nano & the
Afternoon (9:00)

MAIKO SUSHI LOUNGE DJ
Thibault: Sushi Secret Agent

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Leeann
Atherton (7:00)

MEOW Kenny Luna

MERKABA LOUNGE & GRILL LC
Rocks (10:00)

MOHAWK Deadman, Crash
Gallery, the Cutaway

MOMO'S Dustin Welch, Much
Love, 11-Fingered Charlie
(8:00)

NORTH BY NORTHWEST Rick
Hornyak (6:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Bruce
Newman's Nutty Idol Karaoke

THE OAKS Emmerson Biggins
Band

ONE 2 ONE BAR Henry "HBomb"
Roland (10:00)

THE PARLOR Ghost Night,
Marcus Rubio

**POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &
GRILL** Wesley Cox, Uncle
Lucius

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/
Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED 7 Consider the Source

RED EYED FLY Dead Haven

RED FEZ An Arabian Night, DJ
Inverse (8:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB
Lucky Strikes (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby
Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Joel Hofmann

THE ROCK ROOM Carson
Alexander Band (9:00)

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

ROOM 710 The Sanguinistas,
Zookeeper, Judas Bear (8:00)

RUTA MAYA Freddie Steady,
Dennis Keller, Chris Gernottis,
Mike Claxton, Jenny Wolfe,
McLemore Avenue, 3 Balls of
Fire (7:00)

SAXON PUB The Regulars (6:00),
Asylum Street Spankers (9:00,
12mid)

SHOOTERS BILLIARDS Cameron
Road (9:00)

SPEAKEASY Les & the Funk
Mob (9:30)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Li'l Steph
& the Chromatics

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL
Silver Creek (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN R.C. Banks,
Jamie Krueger

TROPHY'S The Lusitania, the
Royalty, Nortone

THE WATER-HOLE SALOON
Karaoke w/ Jonn

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ruby
Jane Smith (7:00)

Sat 29

311 CLUB Luke Cutchen, Joe
Valentine (8:30)

ANTONE'S Arc Angels (10:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Grazmatics

**AUSTIN FARMERS' MARKET
DOWNTOWN** Brent Allen
(10:00am)

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 3
Mary's Distraction (8:00)

BEERLAND Billy Beerland Roast

THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas &
the Crazy Kings (9:00)

BOOMERZ Hadley

'BOUT TIME DJ Element (9:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Dale Watson

THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

CAFE CAFFEINE Jacob Ramirez,
Ryan Davis, Adopted Highway
(7:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
w/ Nicole

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Blue
Squeezobox

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH
Greyhounds (6:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Too
Blue (6:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Prayer for Animals,
A Future Unlived, Queen City
Rollers

SC Ent/Fuze present:



Dec. 29 @ 2007



Doors open @ 10pm



CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio
(10:00); In the Club: James
Hand, Knuckle Yummy, Etta
Vendetta's Eyeful Tower,
Diamond Smugglers (6:30)

COOL RIVER CAFE Vertigo (9:15)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa
Lesson w/ Cesar & Rhonda,
DJ Alvaro (9:00)

COTTON CLUB Pete Benz (8:30)

**DOÑA EMILIA'S SOUTH
AMERICAN BAR & GRILL**
Latin at Heart (7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
& Outlaws

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Lucky Strikes (8:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Tenor
Madness w/ Alex Coke, Tony
Campise (9:30)

ELYSIUM Haven w/ DJ Void, the
Gothfather (10:30)

EMO'S Lounge: The 512, Pt. 2

FADÓ The Blaggards (10:00)

GIDDY UPS Redneck Boys

GRUENE HALL Erik Hokkanen &
Gary Claxton (1:00), Stoney
LaRue (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Rusty
Trapps & the Blue Lites (6:30)

HANOVER'S The Wartime Social
(10:00)

HEADHUNTERS Hit & Run, Cobretti

HILL'S CAFE Chris Browder

HOLE IN THE WALL Sick's Pack,
Bourland (10:00)

JOVITA'S The Gourds (9:30)

LA PALAPA Karaoke w/ Big Jim
(8:00)

LA ZONA ROSA Old 97's
Chrontourage event (9:00)

LAMBERTS Marshall Ford
Swing Band (6:30), Brownout!
(10:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Bernie Calcote
(9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Rick Harvey's
Blues Happy Hour (6:00)

MEOW Kenny Luna

MOMO'S Will Taylor & Strings
Attached Jimi Hendrix Show
(8:00), Sgt. Pepper Show
(11:30)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Melody
Mann

THE OAKS Jon Jon Davis

ONE 2 ONE BAR Derrick Davis
(10:00)

THE OPERA HOUSE Carrie &
Josh, Golden Triangle, Mutating
Meltdowns (7:00)

THE PARLOR Tristero EP Release



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SU **LUCKENBACH CULTURAL
EXCHANGE** 4:30-7:30PM, WITH
CANDICE & T-ROY MILLER
& SPECIAL GUEST MIKE BLAKELY

SA **NEW YEARS EVE WITH
PONTY BONE**
CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT

TU **CLOSED-HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

WE **EVERY WEDNESDAY**
KENT FINLAY'S SONGWRITERS CIRCLE

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1/4 TED RODDY ELVIS SHOW
(2008 ELVIS BIRTHDAY BASH)
1/6 GRANT MAZAK BAND
1/10 KEITH DAVIS BAND
1/11 MICHAEL O'NEIL

NEW YEAR'S EVE

2008

with
the SPAZMATICS

LIMITED TICKETS AVAILABLE
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| | HAPPY HOUR 6-8 | HEADLINERS 9:30 |
|--------|----------------|-----------------|
| THU 27 | KENT MAYHEW | RADIOSTAR |
| FRI 28 | PHIL REDMAN | RADIOSTAR |
| SAT 29 | | SPRUNG |
| SUN 30 | | suede |
| MON 31 | | SPAZMATICS |
| TUE 1 | | closed |
| WED 2 | TRENT DAVE | SPAZMATICS |

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COURTYARD

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UPSTAIRS IN THE GALLERY

ART BY **MICHAEL NORRIS**
THURSDAY • 10PM
PARIS '49
FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY
MIKE FLANIGIN'S B-3 TRIO
TUESDAY • 10:30PM
EPHRAIM OWENS
WEDNESDAY • 10PM
TRUBE, FARRELL & SNIZ

THURS DEC 27
HAPPY HOUR
NATHAN SINGLETON AND HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY
12AM

DUSTIN WELCH AND THE HOUSE BAND
10PM
FRIDAY DEC 28
H. H. THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**
12:15AM

WHITE GHOST SHIVERS
11PM
Whiskey Folks Ramblers
9:45PM
SATURDAY DEC 29
MATINEE 3-7PM **JAMES HAND**
12AM

DIAMOND SMUGGLERS
12AM
ETTA VENDETTA'S QUEEN TOWER KNUCKLE YUMMY
10PM
SUNDAY DEC 30
10PM **HEYBALE ORCHESTRA**
WITH **REDD VOLKAERT AND EARL POOLE BALL**

COMING SOON 1/7 **DALE WATSON'S ELVIS EXTRAVAGANZA** 1/8

IT'S ALL AT... **CONTINENTALCLUB.COM**

CONTINENTAL
MON DEC 31
CELEBRATE NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH US!
NO HAPPY HOUR TODAY
DOORS AT 9PM
SHOW STARTS AT 10PM

DALE WATSON AND HIS LONESTARS
10PM
JON DEE GRAHAM
10PM

TUESDAY JAN 1
PLANET CASPER THE LEROI BROTHERS
H. H. 6:30
DAVID GARZA
10PM

Kathleen Edwards
11:30M
WEDNESDAY JAN 2
H.H. **SHOTGUN PARTY**
JAMES McMURTRY
10PM

JON DEE GRAHAM
THURSDAY JAN 3
HAPPY HOUR 6:30-9PM TBA

BLACK JOE LEWIS TYRANT OF TX FUNK BARFIELD
10PM
FRIDAY JAN 4
THE LEGENDARY **BLUES SPECIALISTS**

Bill Carter AND THE BLAME Denny Freeman AND CHARLIE SEXTON
12AM
SATURDAY JAN 5
NO HAPPY HOUR TODAY
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 & 10:30

TRIBUTE TO THE KING! TED RODDY AND KING CONJURE ORCHESTRA PLUS SHAUN YOUNG AND HIS NEW BLUE MOON BOYS
10PM

ALEJANDRO ESCOVEDO & DAVID GARZA

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ALL AGES, ALL THE TIME

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477-EMOS
603 RED RIVER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

INSIDE: RED AND WHITE WINTER PARTY
THE BLACK • RED LEAVES
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL • SCHOOL POLICE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29

LOUNGE: NICK D PRESENTS
THE 512, PART THREE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30 FREE SHOW

INSIDE: **RUBBLE**
BLACK MAYONNAISE • RUSTED SHUT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31

OUTSIDE: **SCOTT BIRAM**
FLAMETRICK SUBS • HOTROD HILLBILLIES

INSIDE: **WENDY WWAD**
40TH BDAY **BIBLE**
BIBLE OF THE DEVIL
DIXIE WITCH
SUPLECS • BLACK GASOLINE
BLACKHOLICUS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2 FREE WEEK!

LOUNGE: **HUNDRED YEAR STORM**
FULTON READ • GOLDEN BEAR
JETS UNDER FIRE • BUILT BY SNOW

INSIDE: **BASTARD SONS OF THE APOCALYPSE**
JUDAS • SACRED SHOCK

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: **ATTACK FORMATION**
CAMP X RAY • HORN OF AFRICA
POOR PEOPLE • THE BILL JEFFERYS

LOUNGE: **THE SCORE • FALL COLLECTION**
PAPER SOUTH • THE DRAWING BOARD • THE BUBBLES

OUTSIDE: **PROM NITE**
FACELESS WEREWOLVES • JERUSALEM
AM SYNDICATE • MAGNET SCHOOL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4 FREE WEEK!

LOUNGE: **HEX DISPENSERS • APE SHITS**
THE TEENERS • PARTY GARBAGE • SCRABBLE ROBOT

OUTSIDE: **LIONS • BROTHERS AND SISTERS**
A FEW NICE THINGS • STRANGE ATTRACTORS
ALRIGHT TONIGHT

INSIDE: **THOSE PEABODYS • UGLY BEATS**
BLACK JOE LEWIS • TRANSMOGRAPHY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: **CRUISERWEIGHT • APPLICATORS**
THE LITTLE BICYCLES • THE ANCHOR • MASONIC

LOUNGE: **CAR STEREO (WARS) • MOTH! FIGHT!**
QUIET, LOVELY LA SNACKS SPONSORED BY
PARTY ENDS.COM

OUTSIDE: **STRANGE BOYS • THE CRACKPIPES**
ZYKOS • BRAZOS • LALALAND

KOPING SONGS • 1/15 GALLONS, THIS IS HELL, CANNED HEATS • 1/16 TWO TEN BOA COVERTS • 1/19 CRIMINAL MIND, THE MARKED MEN AND 1/20 NASHVILLE PUSSY
• 1/21 NOW, ST. JACOB / SUGAR ROBINSON (ON SALE NOW) • 1/23 SUE • 1/31 WHITE WILLIAMS (ON SALE NOW) • 2/1 BISHOP SOUNDCLASH, WESTBURY TRAM, BEAT LEMON
(ON SALE NOW) • 2/10 DEAD MEADOW (ON SALE NOW) • 2/14 SHERWOOD / THE PUNCHES / THE HIGHER / WE SHOT THE MOON (ON SALE NOW)
• 2/16 METEORS • 2/22 GORRA STARSHIP METRO STATION, WE THE KINGS, THE CAR (ON SALE NOW), TEX (ON SALE NOW) • 2/23 AIDEN
• 2/25 BLACK LIPS, WHITE NOISE (ON SALE NOW) • 3/7 BEAN HOUSE, PAPERDOLLS (ON SALE NOW) • 3/17 ACID MOTHERS TEMPLE (ON SALE NOW)

*ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT www.emosaustin.com, waterloo records,
end of an ear records, & sound on sound records

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: **UME • RED LEAVES • TRE ORSI**
SHARKS AND SAILORS • FOLLOW THAT BIRD!

LOUNGE: **NOISE REVIVAL ORCHESTRA**
TIL WE'RE BLUE OR DESTROY
BEE VS. MOTH • FRANK SMITH • BENKO

MONDAY, JANUARY 7 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: **SCORPION CHILD • BIG BLACK SMOKE**
CONSIDER THE SOURCE • PANTHER ZORA • COBRETTI

LOUNGE: **PLEASANT GROVE**
HOLLYWOOD GOSSIP • THE EASIES
MANY BIRTHDAYS • HISTORY AT OUR DISPOSAL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8 FREE WEEK!

INSIDE: **PACK OF WOLVES**
WARWOLF • THE ROLLER
DISGRUNTLED I HATE YOUR FACE • CONFUZATRON

LOUNGE: **KISSINGER • THE MIDGETMEN**
NATHAN SINGLETON AND HIS SIDESHOW TRAGEDY
THE BLIND PETS

OUTSIDE: **AT ALL COST**
RORY AND THE ARTIFICIAL HEART
RADIOLAND MURDERS • AUX • MONUMENTS

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11



DAN DEACON
ULTIMATE REALITY:
WHEN DINOSAURS RULED THE EARTH

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12



TRIGGER RENEGADE • THE ROLLER
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19



OUTSIDE: **LES**
SAVY FAV

TUESDAY, JANUARY 22

INSIDE: **YEASAYER • MGMT**
HOT 93.3 PRESENTS

OUTSIDE: **LUPE FIASCO**



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

OUTSIDE:



SUPER
FURRY
ANIMALS

HOLY FUCK TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

TUESDAY, FEB 5

OUTSIDE, DOORS @ 9PM, ON SALE NOW:



THE
BRAVERY
SWITCHES

calendar » ARTS » FROM SATURDAY

club listings << FROM SATURDAY

PLUSH Table Manners Crew
(10:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Patrick Quinn

RED EYED FLY Kritickill, 8
Systems

RED FEZ Alton Rex, DJ Kurv (8:00)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB
Wilson (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby
Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Texas Saints

ROMEO'S GEORGETOWN Kirk
Hale (6:30)

ROOM 710 Sakrefix, Martyred,
Pleasant Valley, HOD

RUTA MAYA Spin Alley w/ B-Boy
City, DJ Shoestrings, DJ Trouble,
Meridian Prime, the Halo Error,
Fools Inc., Spin Alley

SAXON PUB Dedringers,
Sideshow Tramps, John Evans,
Hayes Carl (8:00)

SPEAKEASY LC Rocks (9:30)

STUBB'S SIMS Foundation Benefit
w/ Rockstroh, the Diving
Captain, the Hydmen (8:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Whipped
Cream

TREE HOUSE ITALIAN GRILL
Stanley Smith (7:30)

TRIPLE CROWN Scott H. Biram

TROPHY'S Carnival, Boca Abajo,
Frenetica, Savor

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Catch A
Dream (7:00)

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE CIRCLE
C RANCH Brunch w/ Buzz
Guerra (11:00am)

Sun 3 0

THE ALLIGATOR GRILL Patrick
Quinn

ANTONE'S The Scabs (10:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Sieker Band

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Irish
Tune Session (8:00)

BEERLAND Crotch on Fire, Make
Your Own Maps, Follow That
Bird!, Great Northern Guns

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton
Adams

CAFE CAFFEINE Primal Space
(4:00)

THE CANARY ROOST Karaoke
w/ Brian

CENTRAL MARKET NORTH Sean
Hopper Quartet (12:30)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Son y
No Son (12:30)

CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE Luckenbach
Cultural Exchange

CLUB ONE 15 New Monsoon
(10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Mike Flanigin's B-3 Trio
(10:00); In the Club: Heybale!
(8:00)

COTTON CLUB Can't Hardly
Playboyz (7:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Kris Kimura Quartet (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Torch (9:30)

ELYSIUM Regression: Retro
Eighties w/ DJ Pumpkin Spice

EMO'S Rusted Shut, Black
Mayonnaise, Rubble

FRIENDS Open Mic Blues Jam
(8:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON Dale Watson (4:00)

GREEN PASTURES Jacques
Vilmain (11:00am)

GRUENE HALL Adam Hood
(1:00), Paula Nelson, Reckless
Kelly (8:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Chicken
Strut (3:00), Los Flames (3:00)

HEADHUNTERS Parker City Limit,
Answer Me This, Unit Shifters

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE
Austin Sketch Group (1:30),
Gina Chavez (6:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Paul Minor
& Friends

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke
w/ Brian

HYATT LOST PINES RESORT & SPA Dr. John Chrontourage
event (7:30)

JOHNNY FINS Kent Mayhew
(noon)

JOVITA'S The Eggmen (7:00)

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR
Ted Hall's Blues Church & Jam
(8:30)

LONGBRANCH INN Kult w/ DJ
Scorpio (9:00)

LUCKY LOUNGE The Jungle
(10:00)

MANUEL'S Julia LaShae
(11:30am)

MOHAWK DJ Jester the Filipino
Fist, Grand Buffet

MOTHER EGAN'S IRISH PUB
Strong Medicine (noon)

NUEVO LEON Mariachi
Relampago (1:00)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty,
Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites
(8:00)

NUTTY BROWN CAFE Java Jazz
(11:00am)

THE OASIS The Brew

PALMER EVENTS CENTER
Simply Sinatra w/ the Austin
Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

RACK DADDY'S Karaoke w/
Robert Wagner (10:00)

RED FEZ DJ Kurupt (10:00)

RILEY'S TAVERN Open Mic w/
Glenn Allen

ROMEO'S Rob Greenfield

RUTA MAYA Eliza Gilkyson (6:30)

SAXON PUB The Resentments,
Walter Tragert, the Salingers
(7:00)

SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN
Randy Weeks (8:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/
Billy D

SPEAKEASY JJ Usher, Subrosa
Union, DJ Abe the Assassin
(9:30)

STUBB'S Brunch w/ the Shields
of Faith (11:00am, 1:00)

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/
Michelle

TRIPLE CROWN Open Mic w/
Pat Pankratz, Holly Aiken, Nate
Hinds

TROPHY'S Azoustin

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Sunday
Brunch w/ Buzz Guerra

Mon 3 1

ABIA: HIGHLAND LAKES BAR
Julieann Banks (3:30)

ANTONE'S New Year's Eve Party
w/ Bob Schneider (9:00)

AUSTIN CROWNE PLAZA Austin
Social Scene New Year's Eve
Gala w/ the Daddios, Taboo,
Newsboyz, Vallejo (7:00)

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO.
1735 Larry Lange & His Lonely
Knights

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB New
Year's Eve w/ Joe Richardson

BEAUTY BAR DJ Orion, Prince
Klassen, Yo Majesty, the
Laughing

BEERLAND Rock & Roll Karaoke
w/ John Chapman (9:00)

THE BELMONT Chadd Thomas &
the Crazy Kings (6:30)

BOOMERZ Jason Marbach,
Jeremy Miller

'BOUT TIME Karaoke w/ Clayton
Adams

BROKEN SPOKE Alvin Crow

myspace.com/dirtydogbar

Dirty Dog bar

505 E. 6th St

Friday 12/28
Calling Jack Burton

Siringo Pass

Reunion Show

Monday 12/31

A VERY DIRTY NEW YEARS EVE

Thursday 12/27
Jodi Adair (Singer/Songwriter)
Dallas Blues Hero
Kirkland James

Tuesday 01/01
L.E.D. (New Orleans Funk)
Followed by Tuesday Jazz Jam

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Saturday 01/05
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ARC ANGELS
NIGHT ONE OPENER: **PATRICIA VONNE**
NIGHT TWO OPENER: **THE BLUEBONNETS w/ KATHY VALENTINE**
THURSDAY/SATURDAY • DEC 27 & 29

FRIDAY DEC 28
KELLY WILLIS
with
PAULA NELSON
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
LATER... **AMERICAN GRAVEYARD**

SUNDAY DEC 30TH
New Years Eve Eve
WITH THE
SCABS
MALFORD MILLIGAN w/ MPTU
MOTHERS ANTHEM
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

ON SALE NOW!
NEW YEAR SEVE!
BOB SCHNEIDER
T-BIRD & THE BREAKS
TWO GUY TRIO
THURSDAY JAN 3RD
MUCH LOVE AND MUCH MORE

FRI JANUARY 04
Marcia Ball
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
LATER... **ERIC TESSMER**

SAT JANUARY 05
HANK III
& ASS JACK
WITH
THOSE POOR BASTARDS
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COMING SOON
SAT JAN 26TH
SHARON JONES & THE DAP-KINGS
w/ THE IVAN MILEY BAND
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21ST
NORTH MISSISSIPPI ALL STARS
WITH SPECIAL GUEST
ALVIN YOUNGBLOOD HART
KEEP THE DEVIL DOWN TOUR
ON SALE NOW AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

FRIDAY JAN 11TH
THE LEE BOYS
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY JAN 12TH
JUNIOR BROWN
ON SALE NOW • FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SATURDAY JAN 19TH
JASON ISBELL & THE 400 UNIT
WILL HOGE
W/ JEREMY FISHER
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FEBRUARY 26TH
ONE NIGHT ONLY
MACEO PARKER
ON SALE NOW!
MARCH 20TH
BOB MOULD
FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

WILL TAYLOR
& STRINGS ATTACHED
Electric Hendrix Show
STRINGS ATTACHED
JIMI HENDRIX TRIBUTE
WITH: PHIL BROWN,
PAT MASTALOTTO
AND FORMER HEART
BASSIST MARK
ANDES
DECEMBER 28
8PM
Sgt. Pepper's CD
CD RELEASE
DECEMBER 29
11PM
Release Party
TICKETS AT STRINGSATTACHED.ORG

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NEXT MUSIC AUSTIN

A Benefit for the SIMS Foundation

Doors open at 7:15

ROCKSTROH 8pm

THE DIVING CAPTAIN 9pm

THE HYDMEN 10pm

SATURDAY, DEC. 29 • STUBB'S

SIMS has been connecting Austin's musicians with mental health and addiction recovery services since 1995. If you need additional info about SIMS, please call 512-472-1008.



DATES & BANDS:

UPCOMING:

LOCATIONS:

@CENTRAL PARK

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28
CIENFUEGOS
CUBAN

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29
GREYHOUNDS
SOUL, BLUES

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30
JEFF LOFTON GROUP
JAZZ

FRIDAY JANUARY 4
EPHRAIM OWENS
JAZZ

FRI & SAT 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3pm

@ CENTRAL PARK:

Jan 5 - **SETH WALKER**
Jan 6 - **BELLEVILLE OUTFIT**
Jan 11 - **PAULA NELSON**
Jan 12 - **BILL STIDHAM'S**
ROCK N' ROLL ART PARTY

Call 512-206-1000 for details
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THURSDAY DECEMBER 27
ROGER WALLACE
CLASSIC COUNTRY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30
SON Y NO SON
CUBAN

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 2
TX EASTSIDE KINGS
BLUES

THURSDAY JANUARY 3
COMBO MAHALO
HAWAIIAN

WED & THURS 6:30 - 9pm
SUNDAYS 12:30 - 3pm

@ WESTGATE:

Jan 6 - **STEVE SCHWELLING TRIO**
Jan 9 - **BOXCAR PREACHERS**
Jan 10 - **AZUI**
Jan 13 - **RUMBULLION**

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CAFÉ OPEN 7AM - 9PM SUNDAY - THURSDAY
7AM - 10PM FRIDAY & SATURDAY
FREE MUSIC & GREAT FOOD

club listings ◀ FROM MONDAY

CEDAR STREET Highly Likely,
New Year's Party w/ the
Spazmatics (6:00)

CHEATHAM STREET
WAREHOUSE Ponty Bone

CINDY'S GONE HOG WILD
Boogie Monsters

CLUB ONE 15 New Monsoon
(10:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Denny Freeman, Mike Flanigin's
B-3 Trio (9:00): In the Club:
Jon Dee Graham, Dale Watson
(10:00)

COOL RIVER CAFE Lipservice
(9:00)

COTTON CLUB New Year's Eve
w/ Bubba Cox & the Playboy
(7:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Donn & the
Station Masters

ELEPHANT ROOM Three Jazz
Collective, Michael Mordecai's
Jazz Jam (6:00), Ephraim
Owens & Frenz (9:30)

EMO'S Outside: Hotrod Hillbillies,
Flametricks Subs, Flametricks
Subs; Inside: Wendy WWAD
Party w/ Blackholius, Black
Gasoline, Suplecs, Dixie Witch,
Bible of the Devil

EVANGELINE CAFE Charles
Thibodeaux (6:30)

FADÓ New Year's Eve Bash w/
the Blaggards (6:00)

FLAMINGO CANTINA Dr. Dubbist,
Mau Mau Chaplains, Grimy
Styles (9:00)

GIDDY UPS New Year's Eve w/
Big Dean

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN
SALOON Billy Dee

GRUENE HALL Band of Heathens
(1:00), Sunny Sweeney, Asleep
at the Wheel (9:00)

GÜERO'S TACO BAR Trio Indiano
(6:30)

HANOVER'S 3 Amigos, New
Year's Eve Party w/ 3 Amigos
(9:00)

HEADHUNTERS Sunglasses
& Mushrooms, Bus Stop
Stallions

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE
Open Mic Poetry & Reading

HOLE IN THE WALL Chili Cold
Blood, Mother Truckers (10:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke
w/ Brian

JOVITA'S The Gourds (9:00)

LA ZONA ROSA New Year's
Eve w/ Reckless Kelly
Chrontourage event (9:00)

LAKEWAY RESORT & SPA Kent
Mayhew (10:00)

LAMBERTS New Year's Eve
Party w/ DJ Starsign, the
Greyhounds, Gary Clark Jr.
(9:30)

LOCKER ROOM SPORTS BAR
UNB (Un-Named Band)

MANSION AT JUDGES' HILL
Crystal Ball, Eastside
Community Connection Benefit
w/ Big Band Sounds (7:00)

MEOW Matt Wilson

MOHAWK Pink Nasty, Brazos,
White Denim, Black Joe Lewis

MOMO'S Porter Davis, Dan Dyer,
Band of Heathens (8:30)

MONARCH EVENT CENTER
New Year's Eve Ball w/ Grupo
Fantasma (9:00)

NINETY PROOF New Year's Eve
Bash w/ Boo Williams, Eric
Scholwinski, Ruby Revue

NORTH BY NORTHWEST Liz
Morphis (6:30)

NUNO'S ON SIXTH Ray McCarty,
Rusty Trapps & the Blue Lites
(10:30)

THE OAKS New Year's Eve w/
Larry Lange & His Lonely
Knights (8:00)

PALMER EVENTS CENTER
Simply Sinatra w/ the Austin
Symphony Orchestra (8:00)

PANGAEA TRADING COMPANY
Chrysalis: A Night of
Transformation w/ DJ Funky
Junction (8:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &
GRILL Texas Boogie, Ray Wylie
Hubbard

RED EYED FLY Heymaker 3,
Say Hello to the Angels, New
Disaster, the Stummies

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB
W.C. Clark (8:30)

RILEY'S TAVERN New Year's Eve
Party w/ Turbo 350

THE ROCK ROOM Headbanging
New Year's Eve w/ Still Sic
(8:00)

ROOM 710 Teen Cool, the
Bulemics, Ignorance Park,
Dead End Cruisers

RUTA MAYA Big Chief Kevin &
the Flaming Arrows, Burro
Magic, MCO Band, D-Madness,
Diasporic (9:00)

SÃO PAULO'S Crying Monkeys

SAXON PUB Paula Nelson,
Monte Montgomery (8:00)

SHAKESPEARE'S PUB Brent
Allen (10:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy
D., Rae Rae

SKY LOUNGE New Year's Eve w/
DJ Mike Hiratzka, Thrillseekers

SPEAKEASY New Year's Eve w/
Dysfunkshun Junkshun

SPIDER HOUSE PATIO BAR Toko-
Ri Get High, the Carrots, Car
Stereo (Wars)

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Year's Eve w/ Austin
Ballroom Dancers, Brave
Combo (8:30)

STUBB'S New Year's Eve w/
Dertybird, South Austin Jug
Band

TEXAS BAR & GRILL Dawn
Maracle

TRIPLE CROWN Wasted Youth
(9:00)

Tue 01

311 CLUB Soul Kitchen, Station,
Diasporic (9:30)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Texas Old Time
Fiddlers Jam (7:30)

BASTROP SENIOR CENTER The
Kitchen Pickers (6:30)

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Coffee
Sergeants

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Ephraim Owens Experience
(9:00); In the Club: Casper
Rawls' Planet Casper w/ David
Grissom, Warren Hood, Leroi
Bros.; Kathleen Edwards & Colin
Cripps; David Garza (10:00)

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Mark Goodwin Trio (7:00)

ELEPHANT ROOM Stan Killian
Quintet (9:30)

FRIENDS Erin Jaimes & Her Bad
Habits (7:30)

HILL'S CAFE Singer-Songwriter
Night w/ Bill Rice

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR &
GRILL Troubadillos

RED 7 SWAU, Andrea Gail, the
Cabaret, Royal Line, Novista,
Set Afire, Dead & Divine

RED EYED FLY A Corpse
Vanishes

RUTA MAYA Poetry Open Mic,
Music Open Mic (6:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Blue Dog,
Plasticine Porters, the Frontier
Brothers, Three Leaf

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Will
Dunlap (7:00)

Z'TEJAS Kris Kimura Quartet (6:00)



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sun-thur 7pm

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schedule & event listings at thecreeksidelounge.com

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room710.net

710

Smokin' Rock on Red River

Thu 12/27

BLACK JESUS
THE SKELETONS
TITTYBABIES

Fri 12/28

JUDAS BEAR
CHE ARTHUR
SANGUINISTAS

Sat 12/29

Special After Christmas Show

SARCOLYTIC
HOD
MARTYRED
PLEASANT VALLEY
SAKREFIX

Sun 12/30

OPEN
ENDING WITH A BANG

Mon 12/31

Partying Like It's 2003

DEAD END CRUISERS
IGNORANCE PARK
THE BULEMICS
TEEN COOL

Tue 1/1

CLOSED
BEGINNING WITH A WHIMPER

Wed 1/2

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SOUND SYSTEM

UPCOMING SHOWS:
1.3 The Service Industry, The Ideals, Comanche Abortion, 1.4 Casual, Whore of Babylon, 1.5 Terroristic, HR by A.C. Capricorn

RED 7
611 E. 7TH STREET
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Thu 12/27

Matches For Memories
Hey Hollywood, Hush Hush Commotion

Fri 12/28

Seaflea, Consider the Source
Like Dogs, Beta Player, LA Dies
Best Love In Town, Stacy Steger Band

Sat 12/29

O'Pioneers!, The Bread
Comanche Abortion, The Anchor
Brickfight, The Stones We Throw
Hairdos on Fire, Mammoth Grinder
Branch Davidian, Little Brian

Mon 12/31

Bangladesh, Shrapnel, Lug
Pinhead, Southern Front

Fri 1/4

SILENT GREEN
w/ Sarcolytic, Iron Age, Disfigured
Blood of Ronin, Condemned Unit

 **Beauty BAR**

Dec

28th Dj Prince Klassen
Ugly Beats (special 2 set show)

29th Car Stereo (wars)
special guest TreasureFingers

31st Bling In The New Year w/ YO MAJESTY
w/The Laughing/Dj Orion/
w/Dj Prince Klassen
free portraits/free toast
Dress Bing for Bling Sake
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www.beautybar.com • 512.391.1942

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th 27 The Dirty sound, and more

fr 28 Plexi 3, Teeners, Little Bobby
Bleed's One Man Band, The
Peperonis
8pm New Sensational Brownies

sa 29 Billy Beerland's Going Away Party
and ROAST!

su 30 Follow That Bird,
Great Northern Guns

mo 31 Karaoke Christmas @9pm
Special Guest Hosts Father Time
and Baby New Year,
plus a balloon drop & champagne toast

tu 1-3 closed for remodeling

fr 4 Ready Steady Go
tribute to 13th Floor Elevators,
screening of *A Dirt Road to Psychedelia*
music by Acid Tomb
and the Ready Steady DJ's
8pm Tim Larson

sa 5 Flametrick Subs, Jungle Rockers

711 1/2 Red River 512-479-ROCK
beerlandtexas.com 21+only

HEADHUNTERS

720 Red River www.headhuntersclub.com (512) 236-0188

THU 12/27 > JOKER • FRI 12/28 > DEVOLA, FOR THE MOST PART, FULL STRIDE
SAT 12/29 > GENTLEMEN'S SOCIAL CLUB, COBRETTE, HIT AND RUN
SUN 12/30 > PARKER CITY LIMIT, ANSWER ME THIS, UNIT SHIFTERS, NFL FOOTBALL-COWBOYS
MON 12/31 > "HAPPY NEW YEAR" BUS STOP STALLIONS, WILSON & MORE... • TUE 1/1 > CLOSED - Implementing New Resolutions
WED 1/2 > "CHARLIE HURTHIN & RODGERS 8-DAY BASH" CHARLIE HURTHIN & THE HECKLERS, CHARGER FITS, SLOWLY TRUTH DIES
THU 1/3 - MERCY • FRI 1/4 - STREET LIGHT SUSIE, TOTAL FAGGOTS (WOODYS RETURN TO RED RIVER), THE GUSTO
SAT 1/5 - THE PARTY'S OVER PRESENTS: LOUIS TULLY, THE UPTOWN BUMS, SEX ADVICE, BUCKEYE, MAD SWIRL
SUN 1/6 - TEXAS PSYCHOBILLY PRESENTS: KLUB SIM, WIDESTIN & FRIENDS SPINNING PSYCHOBILLY, PSY-CORE,
THE STRIKERS (SAN DIEGO), PICKLED PUNKS (Members of BASHYARD BRAWL) \$4 Cover-9:30PM Start

***** PARTY CATERING : LIQUOR & FOOD EVENTS (825-5600) *****

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THURSDAY DECEMBER 27

MY DEVASTATOR
MANIFESTO
BRINK OF DISASTER
TESTIMONY OF THE FALLS

FRIDAY-DECEMBER 28

LUG
ALL IS TAKEN
DEAD HAVEN
GRAVE EDEN
BACK AT GOLIAD

SATURDAY-DECEMBER 29

SECONDS FROM WAKING
8 SYSTEMS
KRITICKILL
SILENCED
LOUDER THAN LUNACY

SUNDAY-DECEMBER 30

ZENITH FUZZBOMB
OMERTA IGNORED
TBA

MONDAY-DECEMBER 31

NEW YEARS EVE
THE STUMMIES
NEW DISASTER
SAY HELLO TO THE ANGELS
(THE REYKJAVIKER)

TUESDAY-JANUARY 1

NEW YEARS DAY
JESUS CAUSES CANCER
A CORPSE VANISHES
HALFWAY HOUSE
LIQUID REVOLUTION

WEDNESDAY-JANUARY 2

THE FIELDSIDE REFUGEES
FAREVIEW
TURNCOAT
WE KILLED SHELLEY

THURSDAY-JANUARY 3

BLUE HERO
THE LOVERS
MOSBI
KITSCH

FRIDAY-JANUARY 4

DUKE
DEVOLA
EXIT THE SUN
FULL STRIDE
SEDUM

SATURDAY-JANUARY 5

FOR SAKE OF THE RUINS
HEARTBREAK IN ACTION
MOSTLY DEAD
THE EVILDOERS
CHARLIE RAILROAD

UPCOMING SHOWS
01-06 KANKO, LOS RESPONDOS B.K., BACKIN ROCK CITY ROCKIN'OUTS
TORNADO BOAT
01-09 THE UNKNOWN PROJECT FOR REVENGE, VELVET BRICK
01-11 BROKEN TEETH, BIG BALLS
01-12 BOOS, THANKS FOR THE WARNING, DISTANT LIGHTS
01-19 BRIGHT LIGHT SOCIAL HOUR, OAK IS KEEPING

for private parties and info call: 512-474-1084

ELYSIUM
705 RED RIVER ST.

Thursday • Dec. 27 **SPECIAL EVENT!**
RE:CONSTRUCT
New Industrial, EBM, IDM & Darkwave
WITH DJ PROPHET & GUESTS

Friday • Dec. 28 **SPECIAL EVENT!**
P.D.A.
Indie, Electro, Britpop,
New Wave, & Postpunk
WITH DJ FILTHY RICH

Saturday • Dec. 29 **HAVEN**
goth, industrial, synthpop, & EURO DANCE
HAVEN WITH DJS VOID & THE GOTHFATHER

Sunday • Dec. 30 **REGRESSION**
RETRO 80's **RETRO 80's** RETRO 80's
REGRESSION WITH DJ PUMPKIN SPICE

Monday • Dec. 31 **SPECIAL EVENT!**
New Year's Eve Bash
WITH
DJ PUMPKIN SPICE
& THE GOTHFATHER

Tuesday • Jan. 1 **CLOSED**
...here we go again...

Wednesday Jan. 2 **MID-WAVE**
UNDERGROUND retro & OLD SCHOOL goth
WITH DJS PUMPKIN SPICE & EDMINISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday January 4 • Live! Thanatos,
Exit, Gabhar

Friday January 10 • Ladies of the 80's

Friday January 18 • LIVE!
INFORMATION SOCIETY
tickets available at Secret Oktober

21+ only • doors @ 9:30 PM unless specified
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• www.myspace.com/elysiumaustin •

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THURS 12/27 9:30 HOLIDUB 2007
GREEN BELT SOUND SYSTEM, MCPULLISH W/JUDGE, SPECIAL GUEST DJ'S

FRI 12/28 FREDDIE STEADY'S FRONTIER A GO-GO
7PM FEATURING FREDDY STEADY'S, JIM SPECIAL GUESTS
DANNIS KELLER/FEVER TREE, CHRIS GERNOTTIS, ZACHARY THAKS, MIKE CLAXTON/SHERWOODS, JENNY WOLFE, MCLEMORE AVENUE, 3 BALLS OF FIRE, SPECIAL MC BATTLE BOIL LIGHT SHOW BY JAR OF FIREFLIES

SAT 12/29 END OF YEAR PARTY!!!!
9:30 FEATURING SPIN ALLEY, FOOLS INC, THE HALO ERROR, MERIDIAN PRIME, DJ SHOESTRINGS, DJ TROUBLE,

www.myspace.com/rutamayaweekends

3601 S. Congress, Suite D 200, Penn Field, South Austin, (Behind Expose), 512-707-9637, Rutamaya.net for details

Ruta Maya

FREE KIDS SHOW 10:30 AM EVERY SUNDAY

6:30 PM "Last Sunday"
Featuring Eliza Gilkyson

MON 12/31 New Year's Eve Party Only \$10!
Big Chief Kevin, Burro Magic
MCO Band, D Madness, Diasporic

TUESDAYS ARE OPEN MIKE - NO COVER!
6 PM Poetry Open Mic
9 PM Music Open Mic
8 PM Poetry Karaoke on Porch

WED 1/02 CUBAN DANCE NIGHT
FREE Salsa Lesson 7:30 PM
Live Salsa 9 PM with CIENFUEGOS

Fresh Organic Coffee!
FREE YOGA - Check Online Calendar

MERKABA
LOUNGE & GRILL

FRI, DEC 28 LC ROCKS 10PM

SAT, DEC 29 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE
\$200 CASH PRIZE
THE WARTIME SOCIAL 10PM
MOTHERS ANTHEM 11PM
TIX ON SALE AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SERVICE INDUSTRY DJ TETSUO 9PM \$3 YOU CALL IT
SUNDAYS UFC 9PM NO COVER

MON, DEC 31 NEW YEAR'S PARTY

TUES, JAN 1 PIANO BAR W/ MIKEY & JOE 10PM
\$3 YOU CALL IT

SAT, JAN 5 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
4 & 7PM NO ENTRY FEE
\$200 CASH PRIZE
LC ROCKS 10PM
TIX ON SALE AT FRONTGATETICKETS.COM

SERVICE INDUSTRY DJ TETSUO 9PM \$3 YOU CALL IT
SUNDAYS UFC 9PM NO COVER

MON, JAN 6 TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER
6:30 & 9:30PM NO ENTRY FEE
\$200 CASH PRIZE
LC ROCKS 10PM
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TUES, JAN 7 PIANO BAR W/ MIKEY & JOE 10PM
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Wed 02

219 WEST Breezy (7:00)

311 CLUB Open Mic w/
Stephanie Bradley (9:30)

APPLEBEE'S NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILL Marty Linville

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Shelley King,
Carolyn Wonderland (7:30)

AUSTIN'S PIZZA Natalie Zoe
Jazz Trio (8:00)

B.D. RILEY'S IRISH PUB Hosea
Hargrove & the Roadrunners

BABY ACAPULCO'S NO. 5
Singer-Songwriter Open Mic w/
Jimi Lee

THE BELMONT Mr. Fabulous &
Casino Royale (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Lucky Tomblin

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Lost Pines

CEDAR STREET John Pointer, the
Spazmatics (6:00)

CENTRAL MARKET SOUTH Texas
Eastside Kings (6:30)

CHEATHAM STREET WAREHOUSE Kent Finlay's
Songwriters Circle (9:00)

CHEZ ZEE AMERICAN BISTRO
Jacinta (7:00)

CLUB 973 Karaoke w/ the Bigg
Sho (8:30)

CLUB ONE 15 Kimberly Connolly
(9:00)

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery:
Trube, Farrell & Sniz (10:00);
In the Club: Shotgun Party
Caritas Benefit, Jon Dee
Graham, James McMurtry
(10:30)

CREEKSIDE LOUNGE Kill the
DJ, Smash-Ups, Robot, DJ Alib,
Ghettotech w/ DJ Orion (9:30)

CUBA LIBRE Havana Nights w/
the Cadaques (8:00)

DONN'S DEPOT Frank & the
Station Masters

EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE
Kat Edmonson

ELEPHANT ROOM Jazz Pharoahs
(6:00), Ephraim Owens Quartet
(9:30)

ELYSIUM Mid Wave w/ DJ
Pumpkin Spice, DJ Edminister

EMO'S Hundred Year Storm,
Fulton Read, Golden Bear,
Jets Under Fire, Built by
Snow, Bastard Sons of the
Apocalypse, Judas, Sacred
Shock, Terror Management
Theory

EVANGELINE CAFE Cowboy
Johnson (6:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE
Michael Fracasso Piano Hour,
Nathan Hamilton, Kevin Carroll
(6:00)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Roger Wallace (9:00)

HANOVER'S Open Mic w/
Armadillo Action Figures

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE
Experiment in Troubadourism
w/ Jenny Elder (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL Chuck
Fleming, Chris Brecht,
Lonesome Heroes (9:30)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke
w/ Brian

JOVITA'S The Johns, Robert
Banta (7:00)

LAMBERTS Erik Hokkanen & His
Gypsy Tribe (6:30)

LAS PALOMAS Javier Chaparro,
Rick McRae, Terry Hale, Art
Kidd (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Derrick Davis
(10:00)

LUCY'S ON THE SQUARE
Electric Mayhem (9:00)

MAGGIE MAE'S Patrick Fleming
(10:00)

MOMO'S Travis Damron, Owen
Temple, Dan Dyer, Jeremy Nai
Tara Graham (8:00)

MULLIGAN'S Karaoke w/ Stormy
(9:00)

THE OAKS Cade Callahan's East
Side Hayride (7:00)

PARMER LANE TAVERN Pete
Benz (9:00)

POODIE'S HILLTOP BAR & GRILL Open Mic w/ Fond Kiser

REALE'S PIZZA & CAFE
"Frankly" Singing w/ Ken Kruse
(6:30)

REED'S JAZZ & SUPPER CLUB
Marc Devine Quartet w/ Denia
Bridley (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby
Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

ROADHOUSE Karaoke w/ Billy D.

ROOM 710 Heart & Soul Sound
System

RUTA MAYA Cienfuegos (7:30)

SAXON PUB Hans Frank & the
Auslanders, Paula Nelson,
Monte Montgomery, Meagan
Tubb (6:00)

SCOOT INN AND BIER GARTEN
Austin Poetry Slam (7:00)

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KEVIN HAVRON 8:30PM
PETE BENZ 10PM

WARTIME SOCIAL 10PM

FREE POKER 5 & 8PM

HAPPY NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH
3 Amigos 9PM
Party Favors, Midnight Champagne
Toast, and Breakfast Tacos
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THU 12/27 **FLYWOOD**
FRI 12/28 **JOEL HOFMANN BAND**
SAT 12/29 **THE TEXAS SAINTS**
SUN 12/30 **OPEN MIC w/ GLENN ALLAN**
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MON 12/31 TBA
TUE 1/1 TBA
WED 1/2 TBA

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SUN. 12/30
BELLS OF JOY
Brunch from 10am til 1pm
music starts at 11am
Join us on
New Years Day
from 11am til 10pm
(Riverside Dr. only)
Happy New Year!

joe's
bar & grill
drinks • food • games

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Lunch: Mon-Fri 11:30am-2:30pm
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THU, DEC 27 **JESSE DAYTON**
FRI, DEC 28 **BRUCE ROBISON**
SAT, DEC 29 **DALE WATSON**
MON, DEC 31 **ALVIN CROW**
WED, JAN 2 **LUCKY TOMBLIN** NO COVER
SUN, JAN 6 **ELVIS PRESLEY TRIBUTE**

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Cerronato 7:30 - 9pm
BOCASTRIA 9:30 - 11pm

SATURDAY, 12/29 AND **NEW YEAR'S EVE**
\$15 \$25 ADV. | \$30 DOOR

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SUNDAY, 12/30 \$12 FOR ONE | \$20 FOR TWO
THE EGGMEN
PRE NEW YEARS EVE BASH DOORS @ 9pm

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CRAIG TOUNGATE
FRIDAY DECEMBER 28 • 10PM • \$5
REDD VOLKAERT
MONDAY DECEMBER 31 • 6:30PM
CHARLES THIBODEAUX
THURSDAY JANUARY 2 • 6PM
COWBOY JOHNSON

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CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF ROCKING AUSTIN

THURSDAY, DEC 27
ALBINO BLACK CAT 11P
CORINNA'S DREAMLAND 10P

FRIDAY, DEC 28
BIGFOOT CHESTER 12A
POSSESSED BY PAUL JAMES 10P

SATURDAY, DEC 29
BOURLAND 11:30P
SICK'S PACK 10P

MONDAY, DEC 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
MOTHER TRUCKERS 11:30P
CHILI COLD BLOOD 10P

TUESDAY, JAN 1
ROGER WALLACE 8P

WEDNESDAY, JAN 2
LONESOME HEROES 12:30A
CHRIS BRECHT 10:30P
CHUCK FLEMING 9:30P

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NEW YEAR'S EVE BALL

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For 2008: Best wishes for our current members and new members joining in the year to come.

Hotel party begins 3:00PM on NYE.

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JJ USHER

FRIDAY, DEC 28

LES AND THE FUNK MOB 9:30PM
DJ ABE ON TERRACE 59

SATURDAY, DEC 29

BOOMBOX 9:30PM
DJ HOLLAND ON TERRACE 59

SUNDAY, DEC 30

B.A.R.E.N.Y.E. JJ USHER
SUBROSA UNION • DJ ABE THE ASSASSIN

MONDAY, DEC 31

N.Y.E. DYSFUNKSHUN
JUNKSHUN

TUESDAY, JAN 1

CLOSED

WEDNESDAY, JAN 2

LATIN WEDNESDAY
THE BREW 9:30PM
SALSA LESSONS 9PM

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calendar ► COMMUNITY ► ARTS ► FILM ► MUSIC

club listings ◀◀ FROM WEDNESDAY

SPEAKEASY The Brew (9:30), Salsa lessons, O Positivo (9:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Scott Wood (6:00)

VICTORY GRILL The Blues Specialists

WATERLOO ICE HOUSE Ptarmigan (7:00)

Y BAR & GRILL Singer-Songwriter Night (6:30)

Z'TEJAS Stephen Doster, Will Sexton, & Bill Carter

CONTINENTAL CLUB Gallery: Paris 49 (10:00); In the Club: Nathan Singleton & His Side-Show Tragedy, O.A., Dustin Welch (6:30)

COPA BAR & GRILL Salsa Lessons w/ Tony, the Brew (8:00)

COTTON CLUB Texas All-Stars (8:30)

DONN'S DEPOT Murphy's Inlaws
EDDIE V'S EDGEWATER GRILLE Mark Goodwin Trio (7:30)

ELEPHANT ROOM Asylum Street Spankers, Bruce Saunders Quintet (6:00)

EMO'S Attack Formation, Camp X-Ray, Horn of Africa, Poor People, the Bill Jeffereys, the Score, Fall Collection, the Drawing Board, the Bubbles, Prom Nite, Faceless Werewolves, Jersusalem, AM Syndicate, Magnet School

EVANGELINE CAFE Liz Morphis (7:00)

FLIPNOTICS AT THE TRIANGLE Matt the Electrician & Southpaw Jones (8:00)

GIDDY UPS Open Mic w/ Roy & Ted (8:30)

GINNY'S LITTLE LONGHORN SALOON Dale Watson (9:00)

HANOVER'S Karaoke w/ Dan the Man

THE HIDEOUT COFFEEHOUSE Brian Kremer (9:15)

HILL'S CAFE Brent Allen (7:00)

HOLE IN THE WALL David Newbould, Dave Madden, Jade Day, Suzanna Choffel (9:00)

HOMER'S BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/ Brian

JOVITA'S The Cornell Hurd Band (8:00)

LAMBERTS Glover Tango (6:30), Bee's Knees Revue (10:30)

THE LOADING DOCK Breezy

LOUIE'S 106 Mac Bynum (6:30)

LUCKY LOUNGE Ian McLagan & the Bump Band, Afrofreque (6:00)

MARIA'S TACO XPRESS Nathan Hubble, Michael Clay (7:00)

MOMO'S Amy Cook, Suzanna Choffel, James Speer, James Bullard, Josh Halverson (8:00)

THE OAKS Clepper George (7:00)

ONE 2 ONE BAR AJ Vallejo & Zach Baker Jam Session (10:00)

THE PARLOR Magic Jewels CD Release

RED FEZ Twilight Broadcast, Weekend Warm-Up (8:30)

RENAISSANCE HOTEL Lobby Lounge: Rich DeMarco (6:00)

THE ROCK ROOM Karaoke w/ DJ Trip

ROOM 710 Service Industry, the Ideals, Comanche Abortion

SAXON PUB Midlife Crisis, Carolyn Wonderland, George Devore, Ramsey Midwood (6:00)

SHENANIGANS Karaoke w/ Billy D.

T.C.'S LOUNGE Michael Holt & the Trophy 500's (10:00)

TRIPLE CROWN Eric Hisaw, Pat Roberts, Perseph 1

VICTORY GRILL Word/Jazz Low Stars (8:00)

Z'TEJAS Kat's Meow (6:00)

Thu 03

219 WEST Acoustic Jungle (8:00)

311 CLUB Joe Valentine (8:30)

ANTONE'S Much Love (11:00)

ARTZ RIB HOUSE Chris Gage & Michael Austin

AUSTIN MOOSE LODGE NO. 1735 Homer Henderson (9:00)

THE BELMONT Dysfunkshun Junkshun (8:00)

BENNIGAN'S Andy Fiegall (7:00)

BROKEN SPOKE Jesse Dayton

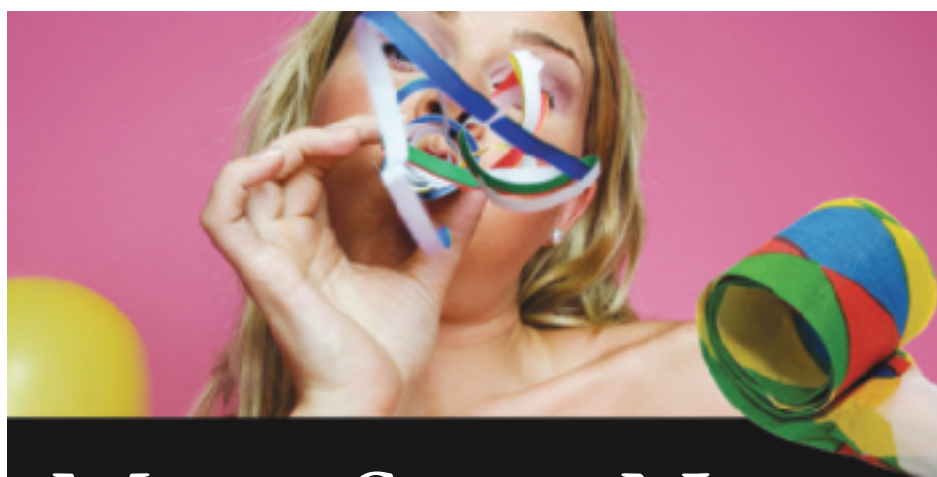
THE BROWN BAR DJ gmau

CAROUSEL LOUNGE Shad Blair

CEDAR STREET Kent Mayhew, Radiostar (6:00)

CLUB ONE 15 Mudphonic, Topaz (11:00)

See austinchronicle.com for complete listings.



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friday 12/28:
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saturday 12/29:
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wednesday 1/2:
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W/LUCUS WADE, ADAN,
EXCEED & ANOMINISS

wednesday 1/9:
WAX ON WEDNESDAYS!
W/ELBOWS DEEP
(DJ MITCH & JOEL VASQUEZ)
VS. THE NU JAX
(LONNIE B. & J.A.M.O.N)

saturday 1/19:
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THE STRANGE ATTRACTORS,
BROTHERS & SISTERS

friday 1/25:
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RICKY STEIN 12:45
DEDRINGERS 11
SHAWN FUSSELL 9:45
DAVID SCHER 8

FRIDAY DECEMBER 28
DUSTIN WELCH 
& THE HOUSE BAND 8
MUCH LOVE 10
11 FINGERED CHARLIE 12

SATURDAY DECEMBER 29
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WWW.STRINGSATTAACHED.ORG

WILL TAYLOR 
& STRINGS
ATTACHED
JIMI HENDRIX SHOW 8
SGT. PEPPER SHOW 11:30

SUNDAY DECEMBER 30
WARREN HOOD
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MARSHALL FORD
SWING BAND 8
L.L. COOPER 6

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THE BAND OF HEATHENS 11:45


 **DAN DYER** 10
PORTERDAVIS 8:30 

TUESDAY JANUARY 1 / CLOSED
WEDNESDAY JANUARY 2 / \$5

 **DAN DYER** 9:30
TARA GRAMA 12:15
JEREMY NAIL 10:45
OWEN TEMPLE 8
TRAVIS DAMRON HAPPY HOUR 6-7:30

UPCOMING SHOWS
SETH WALKER
SOUTH AUSTIN
JUG BAND

No Bad Days
Poodie's Hilltop

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Monday, December 31
NEW YEAR'S EVE
RAY WYLIE
HUBBARD
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Friday, December 28
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WESLEY COX OPENER

Saturday, December 29
BRITNI HOOVER BAND
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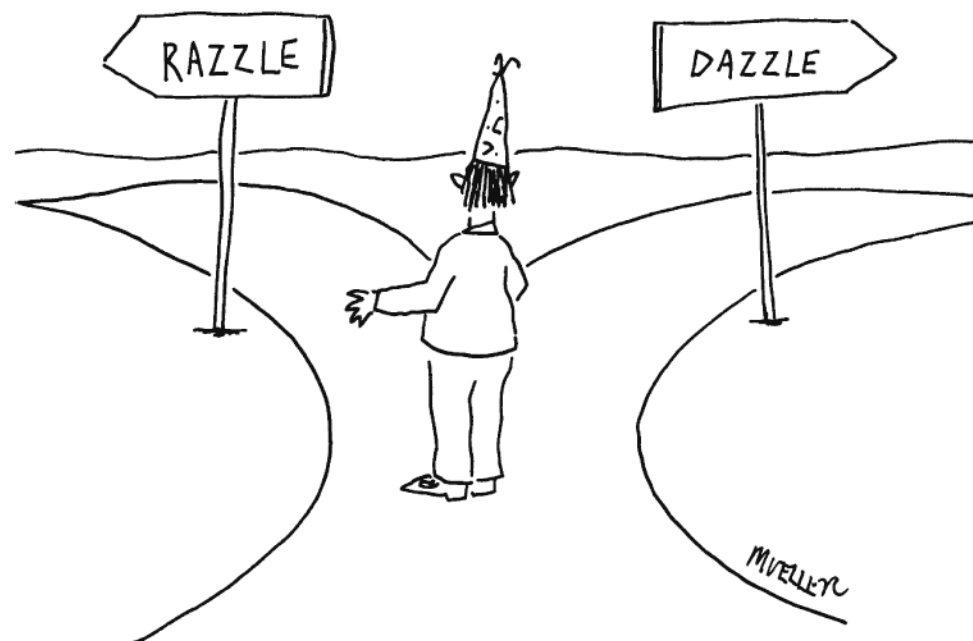
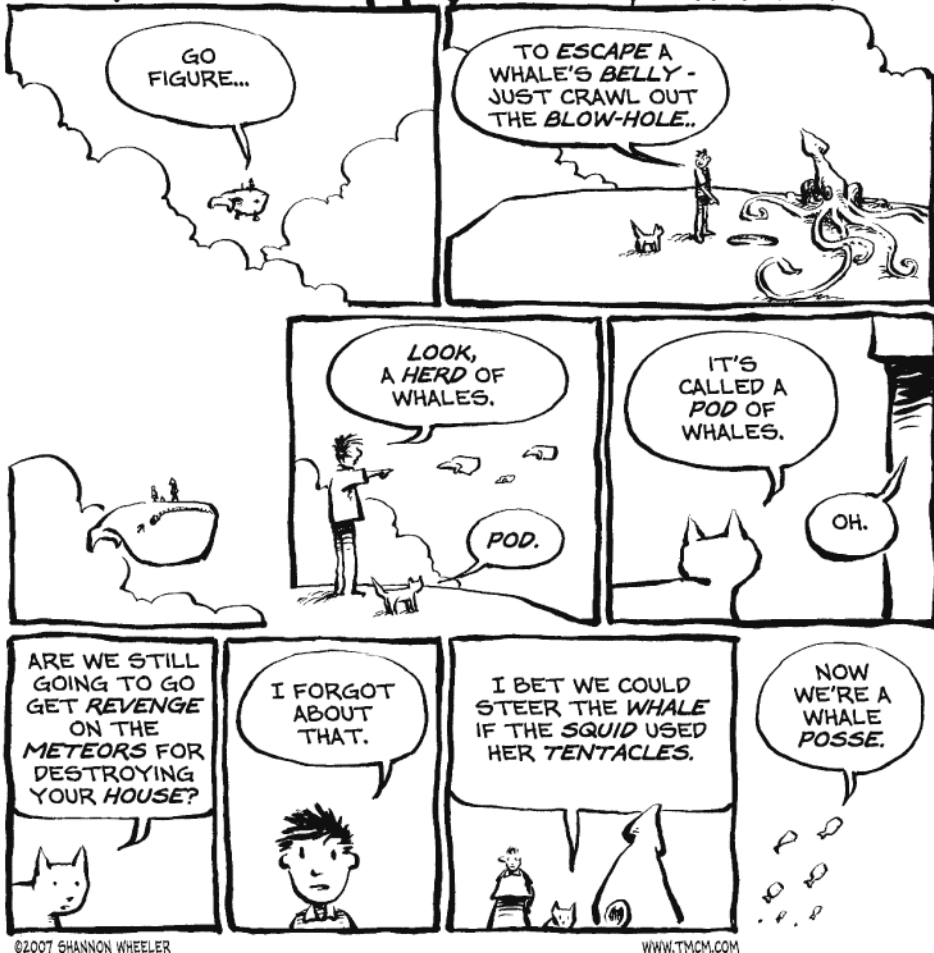
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How to Be Happy (15 OF 8) by Shannon Wheeler



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THE PRESIDENT & HIS LAWYERS DECIDE IT'S OKAY TO IGNORE THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

SEARS & ROEBUCK IS SUED FOR SELLING JUMPER CABLES WITH TESTICLE CLAMPS

I REST MY CASE.

PRESIDENT BUSH ILLEGALLY WIRETAPS AMERICANS FOR 5 YEARS

A FEW BAD APPLE PHONE COMPANY LINEMEN GO TO PRISON

PHONE

A MERCENARY KILLS UNARMED WOMEN AND CHILDREN

HE'S DISINVITED TO THE COMPANY X-MAS PARTY

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FORBIDS INVESTIGATION

THE CIA DESTROYS TORTURE TAPES, VIOLATING A COURT ORDER

DON'T ASK. WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

HEH!

DICK CHENEY ORDERS HIS STAFF TO DESTROY A COVERT CIA AGENT

SCOOTER SPENDS A WEEKEND IN JAIL

THE PRESIDENT KIDNAPS INNOCENT PEOPLE AND SENDS THEM TO SECRET PRISONS FOR TORTURE

TRAVEL AGENTS WHO ARRANGED THE FLIGHTS ARE PROSECUTED.

THE REPUBLICANS DISENFRANCHISE VOTERS AND STEAL ELECTIONS

A DEMOCRAT GOES TO JAIL

THE REPUBLICANS DISENFRANCHISE VOTERS AND STEAL ELECTIONS

A DEMOCRAT GOES TO JAIL

HEH!

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BY LLOYD DANGLE



MR. SMARTY PANTS KNOWS



Thanks to Google Maps, sleuths discovered in 2005 that the U.S. Navy Exchange building on Bougainville Road in San Diego is shaped like a swastika. The Navy is spending up to \$600 million to remodel and reshape the building.

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According to NewProphecy.net, Yellowstone is supposed to turn into a giant volcano in May 2008, followed by many months of darkness on the earth and the appearance of Princess Diana's ghost in October 2008.

New Bible code findings suggest 2008 could be the year of a great earthquake and pole shift.

The above is information that Mr. Smarty Pants read in a book, a magazine, or the newspaper; heard on the radio; saw on television; or overheard at a party. Got facts? Write to Mr. Smarty Pants at the Chronicle, or e-mail mrpants@austinchronicle.com.

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Visit our website and see what engineering opportunities we have for you.

Interested qualified candidates please apply at
www.peabodyenergy.com

Power River Coal, LLC, is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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We're looking for men and women to become **Premises Technicians** who will be responsible for the installation and customer care of the new U-verse interated digital TV, high speed Internet and voice services.

Don't miss this
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All job seekers should bring valid picture identification, be prepared for interviewing and employment testing and can expect to be present up to 3 hours. Limited Seating available.

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ALL
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Hilton Garden Inn
500 North IH 35
Feb 9&10th
9am-4pm

INSTRUCTORS
DANCE & CHEER, KARATE & SELF-DEFENSE INSTRUCTORS NEEDED



We are looking for you to teach kids in the Austin area Monday-Thursdays afternoons 2:30-5:30pm. Responsible applicants only. Must have dependable transportation. Positions starting in January.

Please call for more info
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BEAT THE HEAT!
Just don't feed the bears!!!

Glacier Park, Inc. operates the 7 historic lodges in Glacier National Park. We are actively seeking the following positions for the 2008 summer season (May-Sept):

- *Tour Drivers
- *Waitstaff/Servers
- *Line / Prep Cooks
- *Retail Associates
- *Night Audit
- *Housekeeping
- *Laundry
- *Warehouse
- *Front Desk
- *Bartender

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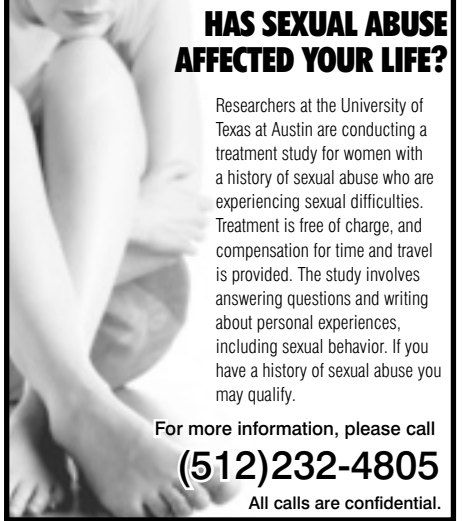
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Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse you may qualify.

For more information, please call
(512)232-4805
All calls are confidential.

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United States Department of the Treasury

Open Interviews
Hilton Garden Inn
500 North IH 35
Feb 9&10th
9am-4pm



Glacier National Park
Beat the heat...
Just don't feed the bears!!!

Glacier Park, Inc. operates the 7 historic lodges in Glacier National Park. We are actively seeking the following positions for the 2008 summer season (May-Sept)

- * Tour Drivers
- * Waitstaff/Servers
- * Line / Prep Cooks
- * Retail Associates
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- * Laundry
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The Association of Alternative Newsweeklies (members include papers like the

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Relocation expenses paid. Resume, cover letter and salary expectations no later than Friday, Jan. 11 to rkarpel@aan.org or AAN, 1250 Eye Street NW, Ste. 804, Washington, DC 20005. (AAN CAN)

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EARLY DEADLINES

The Austin Chronicle classifieds will be having early deadlines for the Holiday issues.

For the Dec. 27th publication, the deadline is Friday, Dec. 21st at noon.

For the Jan. 3rd publication, the deadline is Friday, Dec. 28th at noon.

Please call 512-454-5767 for more information.

160

RESEARCH STUDY

SEX ABUSE HAS SEXUAL ABUSE AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

Researchers at the University of Texas at Austin are conducting a treatment study for women with a history of sexual abuse who are experiencing sexual difficulties. Treatment is free of charge, and compensation for time and travel is provided. The study involves answering questions and writing about personal experiences, including sexual behavior. If you have a history of sexual abuse and it has affected your sexuality you may qualify. For more info, please call

(512) 232-4805

All calls are confidential.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA?

Community Clinical Research is conducting a research trial of an investigational medication for the treatment of schizophrenia.

Participants will receive study related:

- Inpatient hospitalization at no cost
- Medical/psychiatric assessments at no cost
- Financial Compensation

Call to participate in an investigational medication study.
512-323-2622 or 866-798-2622
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participants will be chosen and paid \$3,000 plus housing and travel

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may also email us at altacademy@northwestern.edu. Applications must be postmarked by February 8, 2008. Northwestern University is an equal

opportunity educator and employer. (AAN CAN)

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Sign up now at **www.sxsw.com/volunteer** and attend the 2008 Volunteer Call.
Email **vol@sxsw.com** for more info.

SXSW Volunteer Call
Sunday, January 20th
Hilton Hotel, 500 E 4th St
Austin Grand Ballroom, 6th Floor
3:30-5:30pm

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The Chronicle offers health insurance and a 401(k) program. First year earning potential between \$25K- \$30K.

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No phone calls please.



austinchronicle.com

SCHIZOPHRENIA

HAVE YOU BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA?

Community Clinical Research is conducting a research trial of an investigational medication for the treatment of schizophrenia.

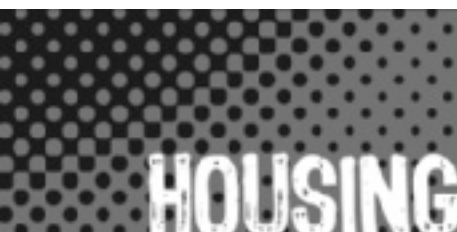
Participants will receive study related:

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- Financial compensation

Call to participate in an investigational medication study
(512) 323-2622 or (866) 798-2622



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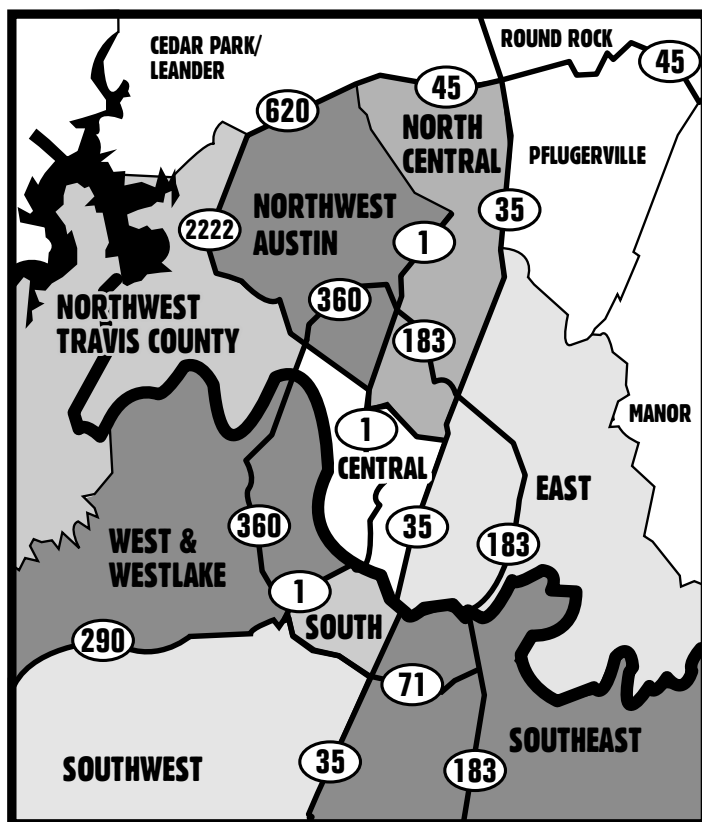
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County, Texas 78738. Officers of said LLC are Victor Wayne Smith, Pres/VP/Sec/Treas/ Mgr/Mem; Julie Ann Smith, Member.

Application has been made with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission for Mixed Beverage Permit, Food and Beverage Cartage Permit, by NRV Triangle, LP General Partner Neptune Restaurant Ventures, LLC dba Fish City Grill, 4616 Triangle Ave. Ste 200, Austin, Travis County, Texas 78751. Officers of said LLC are Victor Wayne Smith, Pres/VP/ Sec/Treas/Mgr/ Mem; Julie Ann Smith, Member.

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-07-004026 To: BEATRICE DURAN Defendant(s), in the herein-after styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
JAMES R. THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 246
COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522
BUSINESS PHONE: (254)

547-7536
FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: LUPE CEMATS Defendant(s), in the herein-after styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
JAMES R. THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 246
COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522
BUSINESS PHONE: (254) 547-7536
FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-004026 To: LUCY EVERSON Defendant(s), in the herein-after styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 353RD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 28, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-004026, in which JOHN DURAN Plaintiff(s), and BETTY DOTY, ET. AL. Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

SUIT TO PARTITION 6.29 UNIMPROVED ACRES OF LAND DESCRIBED AS ABS. 479, SUR. 2, LEWIS W. AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, AMONG THE HEIRS OF LUISA DURAN, DECEASED ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 04, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:

JAMES R. THOMPSON
P.O. BOX 246
COPPERAS COVE, TX 76522
BUSINESS PHONE: (254) 547-7536
FAX: (254) 547-4157

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF EDWARD WILLIAM FREEMAN Deceased, No. 87890 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

ROBERT D FREEMAN AND ALL alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 19th day of DECEMBER, 2007, an Application to Determine Heirship Appointment of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said EDWARD WILLIAM FREEMAN, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 19th day of December, 2007.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-GN-07-003956 To: THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF O & A ENTERPRISES, INC., A DEFUNCT CORPORATION Defendant(s), in the herein-after styled and numbered cause: YOU (AND EACH OF YOU) HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days from the date of issuance hereof, that is to say at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of Monday the JANUARY 21, 2008, and answer the ORIGINAL PETITION of Plaintiff(s), filed in the 345TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Texas, on NOVEMBER 15, 2007, a default judgment may be taken against you.

Said suit being number D-1-GN-07-003956, in which DALE R. SMITH Plaintiff(s), and THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF O & A ENTERPRISES, INC., A DEFUNCT CORPORATION, AND THE UNKNOWN SHAREHOLDERS OF NGUYEN-TEH/168, INC., A DEFUNCT Defendant(s), and the nature of which said suit is as follows:

A SUIT TO ESTABLISH THE OWNERSHIP AND LIMITATION TITLE, BY ADVERSE POSSESSION, OF DALE R. SMITH, IN, AND TO, A PARCEL OF REAL PROPERTY AND ALL OF THE IMPROVEMENTS ON THAT PROPERTY LOCATED IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS BEING: LOT THREE (3), BLOCK "C", OF SPRING CREEK COMMERCIAL PARK, A SUBDIVISION IN TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS, ACCORDING TO THE MAP OR PLAT OF RECORD IN VOLUME 65, PAGE 23, OF THE PLAT RECORDS OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

ALL OF WHICH MORE FULLY APPEARS FROM PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE, AND WHICH REFERENCE IS HERE MADE FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, November 20, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ Diana Staton, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
JERRY KLOSSNER
P.O. BOX 728
WIMBERLEY, TX 78676
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 573-6590
FAX: (512) 442-7123

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF GLADYS W CLARK, Deceased, No. 87297 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

LINDA ESPY and LARRY WILLIAMS alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 24th day of August, 2007, an Application to Determine Heirship and Application for Independent Administration and Letters of Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said GLADYS W CLARK, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 24th day of August, 2007.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk,
Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 1748,
Austin, Texas 78767
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE ESTATE OF JOAQUIN SANCHEZ NERI, Deceased, No. 87598 in Probate Court Number One of Travis County, Texas.

SANTIAGO SANCHEZ NERI alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate, filed on the 22nd day of October, 2007, an Application to Determine Heirship and Application for Independent Administration in the said estate and request(s) that the said Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of the said JOAQUIN SANCHEZ NERI, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

Said application will be heard and acted on by said Court at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse in Travis County, Texas.

All persons interested in said estate are hereby cited to appear before said Honorable Court at said above mentioned time and place by filing a written answer contesting such application should they desire to do so.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE SEAL OF SAID COURT at office in Travis County, Texas, this the 22nd day of October, 2007.
DANA DEBEAUVOIR
County Clerk

Travis County, Texas
P.O. Box 149325,
Austin, Texas 78714
By Deputy: /s/ O. Ruiz

CITATION BY PUBLICATION THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO: D-1-FM-07-005851 To: HONG YANG and to all who it may concern, Respondent(s); GREETINGS: YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear and answer before the Honorable District Court, 419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, Travis County, Texas, at the Courthouse of said County in Austin, Texas, at or before 10 o'clock A.M. of the Monday next after expiration of twenty days from the date of service of this citation, then and there to answer the ORIGINAL PETITION FOR DIVORCE filed in said court on NOVEMBER 13, 2007, and said suit being number D-1-FM-07-005851 on the docket of said Court, and entitled "IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRIAGE OF JUN P. TANG and HONG YANG, ET AL, and In the Interest of SIYANG TANG, CHILD". The nature of said suit is a request to DISSOLVE the marriage of the parties, appoint managing and possessory conservators, and divide the estate of the parties in a manner that the court deems just and right.

The Court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the CHILD's interest which will be binding on you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity, and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the CHILD's adoption.

Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said court at Austin, Texas, December 14, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Courthouse
1000 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 679003 (78767)
Austin, Texas 78701
By /s/ MCGARY ASHANTI, Deputy
REQUESTED BY:
ERIC MICHAEL WILLIE
3755 S. CAPITAL OF TEXAS HWY, STE. 250
AUSTIN, TX 78704
BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 478-0834
FAX: (512) 478-1265

CITATION BY PUBLICATION-CIVIL THE STATE OF TEXAS CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-07-002351

GREEN TREE SERVING, LLC VS. DALIA LOPEZ AND SILBANO MARROQUIN

TO: DALIA LOPEZ, Defendant, GREETING: NOTICE TO DEFENDANT: "You have been sued. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 AM on the Monday next following the expiration of 42 days after the date of service of this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you.

You are hereby commanded to appear by filing a written answer to the Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition at or before 10:00 AM on the Monday next after the expiration of 42 days after the date of issuance of this citation, which date is January 7, 2008, before the honorable 126TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, at the Courthouse in said County in Austin, Texas. Said Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition was filed on the 30th day of July, 2007 in the above entitled cause.

A brief statement of the nature of this suit is as follows, to-wit: On or about January 15, 1998, Defendants executed a Retail Installment

Contract Agreement (the "Contract"), in which they promised to pay the amounts stated in the Contract for the 1997 Spirit manufactured home, Serial NO. SCAR1972840310729AB. Defendants have defaulted under the terms of the contract by failing to make the installment payments as a result of the Defendants' default, Plaintiff is also entitled to foreclosure of its security agreement and take immediate possession of the home pursuant to Texas law and terms of the Contract.

as is more fully shown by Plaintiff's ORIGINAL Petition on file in this suit.

Issued and given under my hand and seal of said Court at Austin, Texas, this the 20th day of November, 2007.

AMALIA RODRIGUEZ-MENDOZA
TRAVIS COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK
P.O. BOX 679003
AUSTIN, TX 78767-9004
By /s/ Amanda Marty Deputy
ATTY FOR PETITIONER OR PETITIONER
RACHEL E KHIRALLAH
3100 MONTICELLO AVE
SUITE 550
DALLAS, TX 75205

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of North Ridge Acres Waterline Improvements (IFB No. B080087-JW), provide and install approximately 2,000 linear feet of 12" trench-less PVC pipe and approximately 12,100 linear feet of direct bury 8" PVC pipe including all fire hydrants, valves, and appurtenances. The project will also include approximately 85 connections between the main line and water meters and approximately 127 service connections between water meters and residences, in Precinct 2 in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, until 2:00 p.m., January 17, 2008**, then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the official clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid North Ridge Acres Waterline Improvements (IFB No. B080087-JW)." If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent, 314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County," in an amount equal to five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, if there is a sound documented reason.

As required by Texas Government Code Sections 2253.001, et seq., a Payment Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds \$25,000.00, and a Performance Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds \$100,000.00, for contracts for construction, alteration or repair of any public building or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS to insure compliance with the requirements of Texas Government Code Sections 2258.001, et seq. (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Texas Government Code Sections 605.001, et seq. (Hours of Labor) and applicable federal regulations.

Plans, specifications and detailed bid forms are available at the office of the Travis County Purchasing Agent, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400.

Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a Fifty dollar (\$50.00) deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order or company check payable to "Travis County". This deposit will be refundable to Bidders who return all bidding documents in **USABLE CONDITION** within twenty-one days after bid opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide bid item amounts totaling to a total Contract price.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held for this project on January 3, 2007 at 11:30 a.m. at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701.

Final payment of the above construction will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the TNR Executive Manager.

CYD GRIMES

TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

CONTRACTOR'S NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION Notice is hereby given that sealed bids for the construction of Gilleland Creek trail, Phase II - (IFB No. B080026-LP), which is a 12 foot wide concrete trail with drainage structures and signage approximately 7,300 feet in length from Immanuel Road eastward to SH 130, in Precinct 2 in Travis County, will be received by the Travis County Purchasing Agent, at the **Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, until 2:00 p.m., Wednesday January 16, 2008**, then publicly opened and read in the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor Conference Room, Suite 400, Austin, Texas. The "Date-Time" stamp clock located at the front counter of the Travis County Purchasing Office will serve as the Official Clock for the purpose of verifying the time of receipt of bids.

All bids shall be addressed to Cyd Grimes, Travis County Purchasing Agent, and shall be marked "Sealed Bid Gilleland Creek trail, Phase II (IFB No. B080026-LP)." If the bid is to be mailed, the mailing address is as follows: Travis County Purchasing Agent,

314 West 11th Street, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. An original bid and two copies of the bid shall be submitted. Each bid shall be accompanied by a bid bond or a certified or cashier's check, payable to "Travis County," in an amount not less than five (5%) percent of the total bid. The Court reserves the right to reject any or all bids, subject to FHWA concurrence.

As required by Texas Government Code Sections 2253.001, et seq., a Payment Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds \$25,000.00, and a Performance Bond is required in the amount of the Contract if the Contract exceeds \$100,000.00, for contracts for construction, alteration or repair of any public building or the prosecution or completion of any public work.

Attention is directed to the **INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS** to insure compliance with the requirements of Texas Government Code Sections 2258.001, et seq. (Prevailing Wage Rates) and Texas Government Code Sections 605.001, et seq. (Hours of Labor) and applicable federal regulations.

Plans, specifications and detailed bid forms are available at the office of the Travis County Purchasing Agent, Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Room 400. Bidders may obtain a complete set of the bidding documents after posting a Fifty dollar (\$50.00) deposit in the form of a cashier's check, money order or company check payable to "Travis County". This deposit will be refundable to Bidders who return all bidding documents in **USABLE CONDITION** within twenty-one days after Bid Opening.

All bids must comply with specifications regarding pricing. Bidders should provide bid item amounts totaling to a total Contract price.

An optional pre-bid conference will be held for this project on Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Travis County Administration Building, 314 West 11th Street, 4th Floor, Suite 400, Austin, Texas 78701. Final payment of the above construction will be paid for by check upon completion and acceptance of the work by the TNR Executive Manager, subject to the concurrence of the Texas Department of Transportation. **CYD GRIMES**
TRAVIS COUNTY PURCHASING AGENT

NOTICE Schroeder Construction Company, Ltd. is soliciting bids from MBE/WBE Subcontractors for the following City of Austin Project: Jimmy clay Booster Pump By-Pass Line, CIP ID 5267.017 PWC 0142, bidding January 10, 2008 at 10:00 AM. Areas of specialty include: Erosion Control, Traffic Control & Signs, Hauling, Surveying, Concrete, Photography & Pipe Suppliers, Call Susan 512 219-6001 or fax your quote to 512 219-7977.

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLES PURSUANT OF TEXAS ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLE ACT, THE FOLLOWING WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC SALE UNLESS CHARGES ARE SATISFIED WITHIN 10 DAYS.

GARAGE KEEPER: SOUTH-SIDE WRECKER, 8200 S CONGRESS, AUSTIN, TX.

2001 HONDA ATV
478TE24021A108502
1995 DODGE
1B7GL23X5S312459

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
Delinquent Tenants PS Orangeto, Inc., and Shurgard TRS, Inc., hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Landlord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code,

at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the **8TH January 2008** on or after the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified:

NO CHILDREN OR PETS PLEASE.

Tuesday January 8th 2008

9:00. am. Public Storage @ 1033 E 41st Street, Austin, TX 78751

1073 NONA PRICE, TV, BED, TABLE

1079 OLIVIA WASHINGTON, CHAIR, BOXES, TOTES

1082 MARIA FERGUSON, COUCH, CHAIR, BED

2029 KIRBY PEARCE, ALL ITEMS IN UNIT

2035 BERRI MCBRIDE, BED, CHAIR, BOXES

2052 NAILAH SANKOFA, WORK BENCH, LAWN EQUIPMENT, BOXES

3002 LINDSEY WESTER-GREN, WASHER, DRYER, COUCH

3007 PHILLIP ELLISON, ARMIR, COUCH, CHAIR

3013 RONALD KOLMAN, BOXES

3021 KORRY LEMON, SPEAKERS, BOXES, TABLE

3069 TENESHA WHITE, WASHER, TABLE, CHAIR

4039 MERCURY BOLDEN, DUFFLE BAG, MICROWAVE, FISH TANK

4085 KATHY URDY, TABLE, TRUNK, DESK

4127 SANDY MCMANNIS, BOXES, LAMP, TOTES

4159 JAROD STAINAKER, TV, STEREO, DRESSER

4186 PEGGY WOOLEY, BOXES, TOTES, CLOTHING

5085 LISA WALKER, TV, STEREO, DRESSER

5105 ROBERT HENSLEY KYLE, COUCH, DESK BOXES

5185 TRACIE LAYMON, CHAIR, BOXES

9:30am Public Storage @ 10001 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

7035 John Bonner

2034 David Jones

8072 Krystal

10:00am Public Storage @ 10100 Nth IH-35, Austin, TX 78753

H006 Harold & Latonya Byrd, stove, washer, table

G001 Harold Byrd, drum set, amplifier, cabinet

D086 Shirley Guy, bags, boxes

B119 Jeremy Woods, dresser, table, boxes

B060 Alfred Boedeker, table, exercise equipment,

A024 Joe Saldana, Couch, Lawn Equipment

B095 Fallon Beraud, TV, boxes

B052 Gil Cabellaro Jr All items in unit

10:30am Public Storage @ 937 Reinli, Austin, TX., 78751

227 Margaret Niesen

924 Cedric Mantu

307 Shana Griggs

232 A.J. Hernandez

311 Albert Sanchez

480 Brannen Temple

617 Craig E James

183 Renee Williams

452 Latoya Walker

383 Felicitia Mendoza

414 Carlynn Ball

11:00am Public Storage @ 8101 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

N1271 Reggie Hicks

N2257 Michal Privett

N3512 Merrill Frank

N1285 Mallring Williams-Davis

127 Tinisia Green

3211 Kristin Werner

226 Jerome Buck

3189 Tammie Sullivan

3068 Gerardo Contreras
1415 Yonis Holliday
2069 Cindy Lucas
1326 Ana Mayorga
N1266 Ruth Hodges
1404 Manuel Perez
555 Bernice Wyatt
3093 Joe Mendiola
3183 Eugene Isom
2112 Monica Lay
11:30am Public Storage @ 8525 N Lamar Blvd., Austin , TX 78753

A062 Carolyn Turner-Francis

B033 Terry Cordanas

A052 Gina Mendez

B054 Pearl Cardiel

G037 Naomi Puapua

G013 Lyn Weldon

H016 Khalilah Harrison

B006 Belinda Brown

A063 Jacob Borrero

G032 Lorenzo Sandoval

D038 Abraham Ramirez

J023 Maria Vences

12:00pm Public Storage @ 8128 Nth Lamar Blvd., Austin, TX 78753

D032 Lamont Fisher, drums, weight bench, Couch

D013 Josh Walker, washer, desk, couch

E042 Adolphus Kimbrough, chair, headboard

D005 Mary Johnson, BBQ Smoker, desk, computer

12:30pm Public Storage @ 9205 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78758

A229 David Cargill

B037 Joel Thompson

E136 Nicholas Connolly

A051 Michael Usher

C095 Charlotte Freeman

A227 Tamika Brown

1:00pm Public Storage @ 10931 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759

E003 Nathan's Boxwell, Lamps, totes, boxes

D044 Beth Marsh , TV, Exercise equipment

B023 Erica Adams, Weight Bench, Lamps

B031 Christopher Smith, all items in unit

C013 Wanda Harrell, all items in unit

E004 Valerie Blanton, all items in unit

1:30pm Public Storage @ 12318 N MOPAC EXPRESSWAY, AUSTIN TX 78758

D581 Peter E Ferraro

A034 Elyzabeth Casey

D507 Brandon Barnett

2:00pm Public Storage @ 12915 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78750

C003 Kellie Pollock all items in unit

4024 Johnny Tumilson all items in unit

D041 Cheryl Lovely, all items in unit

D026 Katriena Davis, all items in unit

5030 Katriena Davis, all items in unit

3064 Chance Overstreet, all items in unit

4028 Danielle Smith, all items in unit

2:30pm Public Storage @ 13675 N US HWY 183 Austin, TX 78750

700 Mark August, desk, ladder, table

704 Micheal Mullins, all items in unit

3:00pm Public Storage @ 1517 Round Rock Ave., Round Rock, TX 78681

8185 Amy Lewis, toolbox, ladder, book case

8137 Markisha Evans, all items in unit

4121 Austin Rehab Clinic, Medical equipment, tables, desk,

3120 Mitchell & Mitchell Ent, INC. all items in unit

3112 Sherritha Fisher, couch, exercise equipment, suitcase

2102 Robyn McGregor, toys, chest, luggage

4139 Austin Rehab Clinic, exercise equipment, table

5146 Michaela Kelley, Computer, desk,

8185 Tammy Lewis, Tool Box, Ladder, chair

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, there being due and unpaid charges for which the undersigned is entitled to satisfy an owner's lien of the goods herein-after described and stored at Stor Self Storage location listed below; And due notice having been given, to the owner of said property and all parties known to claim an interest therein, and the time specified in such notice for payment of such having expired, the goods will be sold at public auction at the following addresses to the highest bidder or otherwise disposed of on the following dates. No one under 16 allowed. Cash only. Auction will take place **January 08, 2008 10:30am at Stor Self Storage 2508 W. Pecan St. Pflugerville, TX 78660 512-990-1000.** Unit # 472 Felton McBride, rubber storage tubs (10), luggage, clothes, shoe boxes (15), tricycle, and dishes.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9th 2008.

9:00 a.m. Public Storage (formerly known as Shurgard) @9814 Westgate Blvd, Austin, TX 78748

0016 JOEL REYES, TV, WASHER, DRYER

0042 SHARON SHAFER, TV, BED, CHAIR

0122 CRAIG BOUTWELL, TOOL BOX, STEREO, TV

0222 CHRIS WILSON, WASHER, DRYER, COUCH

0245 PETE MORENO, DRESSER, LAWN EQUIPMENT, TABLE

0299 LANCE TAYLOR, LADDER, COUCH, CHAIR

0325 VARUN BHATNAGAR, TABLE, DRESSER, BED

0370 DAVID MARFIN, STEREO, WASHER, DRYER

0458 CHERYL HOLMES, TV, LAWNMOWER, BOXES

0487 DAN IRONS, CHAIR, BOXES, TRUNK

0515 DAN IRONS, BOXES, CHAIR, DOG KENNEL

9:30a.m. Public Storage @ 7200 S 1st Street., Austin, TX 78745

B028 MARK RANDECKER, TOOL BOX, LADDER, TV

C061 SHARLENE ERVIN, TV, HAND DOLLY, DRESSER

C088 STEPHANIE RIOS, BOXES, CHAIR, MONITOR

D103 ADRIAN PEREZ, COUCH, LOVE SEAT, CHAIR

F193 ONTERIA RHODEN, TV, LOVE SEAT, ENTERTAINMENT CTR

I241 SANDRA BELL, DRESSER, DESK, LOVE SEAT

L334 GRACIELA GARCIA, HAND DOLLY, DRESSER, BICYCLE

N437 PATRICIA DAVIS, TV, SHELVES, BOXES

Q507 STEPHANIE RIOS, TRUNK, BOXES, BAGS

R524 CASSANDRA BRADFORD, BOXES, BAGS

S557 GUS GALVAN, DOORS, WINDOWS

T602 RICHARD KOVAR, SPEAKERS, STEREO, TOOL BOX

U615 STEVE BECK, SPEAKERS, BOXES, TOTES

U640 OLEGORIO OCHEO, YARD TOOLS, HAND DOLLY, FAN

V719 RACHEL CASTRO, CHEST, DRESSER, DRYER

V730 BRAIN TEWS, TOOL BOX, DRESSER, DESK

V743 IOLE BARBOSA, DRESSER, BOXES, PICTURES

W819 CYNTHIA KERR, TRUNK, WASHER, DRYER

W785 ROBERT SMITH JR, BAGS, TOTES, SUITCASE

10:15 a.m. Public Storage @ 7112 S Congress, Austin, TX 78745

D10 DIONNE POWE, TV, COUCH, CHAIR

D16 RICHARD ANTHONY LEAL, HAND DOLLY, TOOL BOX, BOXES

D32 DONALD BELTZ, STEREO, CHAIR, BOXES

E33 ROXANNE GARCIA, TV, WASHER, DRYER

F30 CARLOS RIVAS, TV, ENTERTAINMENT CTR, COUCH

F37 SCOTT TUCKER, TV, COUCH, LOVE SEAT

G2 IVAN MCCOY, DRESSER, CHAIR, BOXES

J76 ALBERT GARCIA, TV, HAND DOLLY, BOXES

J62 FRANCIS COONS JR, TOOL BOX, SHELVING, BOXES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE
PS Orangeto, Inc., and Shurgard TRS, Inc., hereby gives notice that the property generally described below is being sold to satisfy a Land-

lord's Lien pursuant to Chapter 59 of the Texas Property Code, at the time and place indicated below, and on the following terms: All property generally described below will be sold at public sale to the highest bidder for cash, or credit cards, **NO CHECKS**, with payment to be made at the time of the sale. Seller reserves the right to refuse any bid and to withdraw any item or items from the sale. The property will be sold on the **9th of JANUARY 2008** on or about the time indicated at each self-storage facility identified: **NO CHILDREN PLEASE.**

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F30 CARLOS RIVAS, TV, ENTERTAINMENT C



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JUST BEING ME!!!!!!!

You just have to get to know and I have to get to know you. **LILCARMEL**, 24, #124245

YES MASTER

Want someone to take charge. Sex in public. When there is the thrill of getting caught. Sex in front of others, either aware or not really turns me on! **LANAWIL**, 52, ☎, #124093

MISS E

I just wanted a \$150 gift card from FORBIDDEN FRUIT... Hopefully I get one... Other wise this profile is for fun. I am from Austin but stay in Chicago now... **mmchcr05**, 22, ☎, #124037

GODDESS OF LOVE

I enjoy intellectual conversation with company and demand respect from men. Ultimately, I want someone to genuinely display interest in getting to know me. **lolita**, 27, ☎, #123960

BRAZEN AND INSATIABLE

I am looking for a man who does not have to be the most amazing thing in the world to look at, but has intelligence. **krystaltear**, 35, #120584

FEMALE SEEKING MALE

MARRIED FEMALE 61, 38 DD'S. Seeking for a D/D/F endowed white male for friends with benefits. Join my husband and I for intimate fun. **elsex46**, 61, #123648

CUTE BI-CURIOUS FEMALE

I am looking for someone around my age group, no older than 34. Experienced or inexperienced. Must be attractive, either Latina or Caucasian and be around my same weight. **aust-ingr107**, 22, ☎, #123569

REWARDING DOM

Looking for a consistent submissive, not a one time experience. Would like to meet them before anything sexual obviously. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me. **TomorrowsWorse**, 23, ☎, #123509

HOT MAMA

Looking for fun in Austin. **curves44**, 45, #122575

WILDERNESSGIRL SEEKS TRANS/CROSS

Big Titty, blue eyes, pretty nice looks. Wilderness girl is back in town seeking fun with cross dresser, transsexual, and into role playing. An accent is a plus and turnon. **pleime**, 41, #122521

INSATIABLE, OPENMINDED, SEXPOT

SWF seeking SWM for???? looking for fun. **Austinnymphoo**, 35, ☎, #121617

AUDACIOUS BEAUTY+ BRAIN

I see beauty beyond the orthodox vision of american eyes and seek someone with a strong sense of identity and awareness of the world willing to explore sensuality and sexuality. **SymposiumLover**, 20, ☎, #119431

LIBRARIAN LOVER

In an open marriage. Not looking for a relationship. More like a rainstorm; a fun and honest lover. Please no christians or republicans. Must love films and libraries. **LucifersWaitress**, 27, ☎, #119103

IT'S PLAYTIME BOYS

I'm looking for a man that's sweet and caring but i get bored easily so he needs to be full of surprises so that i never get bored. **austinpartygurl1985**, 22, ☎, #119045

NAIVE LUST

Looking for an open-minded, intellectual, attractive, sensual, interesting, family-oriented guy with no children; who is a pervert in the bed. I want the best of both worlds; Open to new ideas. **Vana**, 37, #115092

HORNY NEED MORE!

29 yr old married HF. seeking discreet sex partner for occasional romps in the sack. you must be discreet. 26-35 hispanic male. no long term relationships. speak spanish. **2noty2bnice**, 31, ☎, #114844

HORNY HISPANIC CPL

Married Hisp. cpl seek adult encounters. Mostly MFM, at times ply alone. She wants clean cut, endwd, Hisp. men 32yo>. Both 40, DDF, avg lks, 5'6", 190#, clean cut, endwd. **115536**, 46, ☎, #115536

LETS GET HIM

Hello, we seek another man in the bedroom, clean cut, professional, no tattoos to get me good while my man is forced to watch. **hotvixen**, 31, ☎, #124454

BI COUPLE LOOKING

attractive, experienced couple seeking bi couples or single bi individuals for erotic play. lots of fun, like to play dress up, love heels and naughty. big on bedroom eyes, great smiles. **playfullpair**, 33, ☎, #124429

THREE IS COMPANY

We're an attractive African-American couple looking for another to female to join us in spreading a little holiday cheer. Be ready to please, I guarantee you will be. **Threeiscompany2**, 23, ☎, #124414

FIRST TIME COUPLE

We are a couple in love but wanting to expand our sexual pleasures. this would be our first time but we are very open minded. We're in our 40's. **080764**, 43, ☎, #124403

SENSUALCPLSEEKING SPICE

We are a committed middle-aged couple interested in experiencing with like-minded individuals/couples to add spice to our hot lovemaking. If the words discreet, sensual, erotic, passionate, imaginative, fun interest you, contact us. **garf5848**, 48, ☎, #123217

CRAZY ASS COUPLE

Married couple 36 female, 41 male, looking for single(s) or couple(s) that are not new to group sex. No Strings, no games, just great sex! **ginger**, 36, ☎, #124266

FRIEND WITH BENEFITS

Happily married couple seeking one male to join us for intimate fun in and out of the bedroom. LTR. Must be comfortable with both husband and wife. **spiceycouple46**, 61, ☎, #124262

PARADISE IN TEXAS

We're creating paradise for a special woman that would love to join us. There's 16 acres to play in so being naked is a plus. Are you that special lady? **LoversNParadise**, 35, ☎, #124199

WHATYOUNEED

we are a nice couple i am 22 and he 20 i have experience and he does not i wish to share and show so if interested. **bandj**, 22, ☎, #120784

EXPAND YOUR HORIZON

bi-curious, sexy, stylish, feminine, exotic woman. looking for adventures with sexy guys and feminine girls. Chemistry is a must. I long for sophistication more than anything else. **mnemosyne**, 32, ☎, #124135

DISCRETION WITH BENEFITS

Kinda-bi looking 4 same.No couples.Just party and play together. Love girl kissing & playing grab ass. I am pretty, femme and looking for the same; no make up, waifs ok. **lizzy11**, 31, ☎, #117594

LESBIAN LOVE

I'm a petite fem girl looking to mess around with similar. Preferably around my age and no strings attached. **heybaby**, 19, ☎, #123524

PINUP SEXXXY FEMME

bi-sexual femme with a flair for all things retro. i love burlesque, pinup, and fifties fashions. come play with me? **atxbibabe**, 29, ☎, #123507

KINKY BOOK LOVER

I'm just a kinky nerdy girl looking for some kinky nerdy sex. Can you flog me while you make me conjugate Latin verbs? If so, we should meet! **Plagosa**, 25, ☎, #123241

FOOT/WS SLAVE

Seeking straight or bi masculine, slim buddies who love to be spoiled with foot massages. If your interested in either foot massages, write me. **Male-FootSearch**, 46, ☎, #123872

TICKLE THERAPY

Need a good laugh? Expert tickler will use his wicked light touch everywhere from armpits to toes. Cute, smart, easy-going, respectful, and thorough! Can email a pic on request. **feather_fingers**, 40, ☎, #122033

SEXUAL ARTIST

Write if you want to know a well-rounded, intelligent, thoughtful, sexy man. I enjoy well-rounded hispanic, black and italian men. Low maintenance kind of guy. Casual encounters are fine. **cookster**, 47, ☎, #121616

STUD IN STILETTOS

W/M, 49, married and Bi seeks secret encounter with other crossdressers or M/M or M/F couples for erotic pleasures. Too sexy in my stilettos and stockings. May introduce wife later. **eddyfreestyle**, 50, ☎, #118296

HOTGUY LOOKING FOR

Hispanic Bottom, looking for a discreet encounter and a relationship with a Top guy. I am discreet Open to new things with guys around my age or younger. 46yrs. **antonio_3638**, 43, ☎, #118402

LOOKING TO EXPERIMENT

Serial monogomist, looking to explore, be explored, and experiment. Can be shy, but I'm open for trying things. Man/woman or man/woman/woman. intimate encounter or fun relationship. **cyrano**, 27, ☎, #123432

MR ORAL LOVER

My ideal T Girl has medium to large breasts, is submissive, likes the bottom, is passionate, and has an oral fixation. **whiteknight**, 47, ☎, #123510

HARD BLACK

I'm 24, 5'9", 200, ddf, clean respectful man. Looking to explore what the world has to offer me. Need some new kink in my life. **choklat_thundr**, 24, ☎, #123854

MAN'S LADY'S MAN

Handsome, classy, sensual lady's man who loves to be a soft, silky man's lady. Seeking couples and women for a walk on the wild side in my sexy French lingerie. **Pantyboy**, 42, ☎, #123387

WANTING IT ALL

I'm 39, 5'3", 165 lb male w/starving sex drive. Recently free to fulfill all pleasures. Looking 4 right person/couple to explore what I've been missing. Bi-curious looking 4 discrete encounters. **forfunexcitement**, 39, ☎, #12318

MAKE YOU SCREAM!

Looking for someone to have fun with, see where things go. A roommate with benefits or a kinky girlfriend or TS girlfriend (or friend w/ benefits) would be great. **Metalopn**, 26, ☎, #122364

DOM SEEKS SUB

dom seeks sub for play you must be willing submissive given to my pleasure do what i want how i want when i want if thats clear then contact me. **thief127**, 41, ☎, #116202

SUB BI MALE

Experienced, kinky, submissive, bi male, into almost everything! Sane, safe, DD free, discrete, nasty, kinky and looking to play! **subslut**, 43, ☎, #122208

TXSIZELOV'IN

I'm looking for fun. Play well with others, easy going and a big smile. Open to try anything once. If I like, I did it again and again and again. **Big-SmileKeith**, 43, ☎, #121157

WACO SUBMISSIVE MALE

I am an athletic, ddf, bisexual male that is single. I am more of a sub/bottom type and I seek to play that role with males, females, couples, and TV/TS. **biguywaco**, 49, ☎, #121961

SEXY CROSSDRESSER

Sexy Crossdresser looking for force feminization to teach me the proper ways of womanhood. I have sexy B cupped breasts. Love lingerie, Corsets, Girdles, ect. I'm open to anything new. **jackie66**, 41, ☎, #122825

YOUR PERFECT GURL

Adventure loving, happy go lucky Gurl seeks mentor for sharing, caring, exploring, intimate fun. You will not be disappointed with a pleasure oriented devotee looking for like minded girlfriend. **Lynda61521**, 48, ☎, #119822

CROSSDRESSER ISO GIRLFRIEND

I am a very passable and kinky crossdresser. I am bisexual, but prefer women. I'm primarily looking for a girlfriend, but occasional play partners and friendships are good, too. **kinky_violet**, 26, ☎, #120083

GINGER

GROUP WHORE

Married couple 36 female, 41 male, like an occasional pile of naked play, all nighters, all goes, this is not our first rodeo, looking for single(s) or couple(s) that are not new to group sex. No strings, no games, just harmless fun!

read the rest of **GINGER's** profile or enter your own profile for **FREE** online at austinchronicle.com/easystreet

THE LUV DOC

White Ghost Shivers • Fri., Dec. 28, 9:45pm
Continental Club • 1315 S. Congress
www.continentalclub.com

Christmas is over. Nice to finally shake that dog off your leg, right? Nothing like sitting around all day after the presents are opened drinking eggnog and listening to grandpa fart into his recliner. Now you've had a couple of days to contemplate what to do with that Indonesian-made green Wal-Mart sweatshirt your uncle from Missouri mailed you in a duct-taped Quaker State Motor Oil box. It's the thought that counts, right? And even though he left the partially torn "\$6.99 Clearance" tag tethered to the neckline so you would know how much it set him back, your guilt will only extend as far as a Goodwill collection bin. Of course, if you're smart, you'll take a picture of yourself in it and Photoshop that picture into another photo where people are doing something interesting – maybe smoking pot with Willie or building houses with Habitat for Humanity – something with a little voyeuristic pizzazz. He doesn't get out much, you know. Besides, just because your uncle still thinks you're the same size you were when you were 14 doesn't mean you have to be a dick, especially since the sweater cost nearly twice as much as the can of Fix-a-Flat he sent you last year. So OK, maybe you didn't get everything you wanted for Christmas, big deal. What would you do with an iPhone anyway? Surf YouPorn and send MySpace questionnaire bulletins? How embarrassing would it be if you died in a car wreck with your iPhone logged onto Bestiality.com? You're better off staying hungry and keeping the eye of the tiger (not just because you made sweet love to the empty socket) and both hands on the wheel. It's only a couple of days until 2008. You've got a whole list of resolutions to put together, plus you need to scare up a date for New Year's Eve. If you play your cards right this weekend you might just find someone to help you iron the wrinkles out of your penis on that special night (unless, of course, your penis is an innie). But where can you hunt up some willing strange this late in the game? Well, there's always Tangerines over at the Stouffer (aka the "Cougar Cage"). Just a couple of pumps of Axe Body Spray before you troll across the dance floor and you'll have fur hanging off you like Jeremiah Johnson. If you like to keep it central, however, the Continental Club is your best bet, even though it might not be your target demographic. If like your meat aged and tenderized, the Continental Club offers an impressive selection, and this Friday, when old-timey juke jumpers White Ghost Shivers take the stage, the room should be jiggling with folds of white, sweaty flesh. Just remember: The dance floor is a little like Christmas, you may not get what you want, but you might just get what you need.

austinchronicle.com/easystreet

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women SEEKING men

I'M ME NOTU
Chronicle asks "How delightful am I?" i dunno. It depends if you like smart, silly, petite, gun totin ex-circus pre-formers who have turned into current mental ward patients. **sassyfras77**, 30,  **#124385**


NATURAL, EARTHY, MUSIC-LOVER
I am a very simple, honest, and joyful woman. I am interested in making friends with those who guide their life with their heart. **Cypress**, 50,  **#124380**


BEAUTIFUL WILD CHILD
I'm new to Austin and I'm just interested in meeting people to hang out with. I'm a struggling Artist that likes to ride on motorcycles and in fast cars. **Queen_Corvina**, 31,  **#124343**


WARM, PEACEFUL, KIND
I'm a warm hearted, great sense of humor, sensitive, peaceful, professional, Hispanic 45 year old woman. I would like to meet gentlemen for friendship, and dating. Ages 38-52 years old. **forty-something**, 45,  **#124316**


SEXY SMART EXSISTENTIALIST.
Ok here is the part that I hate more when doing this single looking for that prince charming thing. **angeleve**, 37,  **#124314**


FUNNY, KIND, WITTY.
Vivacious, kind, fit, petite, prof, fun to be with, smart, very family oriented loves the outdoors, organic wines, the gym, movies, the arts, healthy lifestyle, would love to find, a friend to enjoy what Austin has to offer. **Spanishrose**, 41,  **#124282**


WORKIN' IT
I love new and exciting experiences. I have lived in many places and each one shapes me into a better person. I love to laugh and yoga it up. **sirena834**, 28,  **#124278**

WHERE ARE YOU?
Looking for my match. I'm fun, outgoing, somewhat witty, love animals and music. Looking for someone for me to get to know and hopefully date and see where it goes. **deenadub**, 34,  **#124272**


DIVERSE OUTGOING GAL
Life should be a constant learning experience. My match wants a mutually beneficial relationship- emotionally, intellectually, and physically! Someone openminded, with "old world" sensibilities. Cute geeks are a turn-on! **snax**, 43,  **#124197**

DON'T STOP BELIEVIN'
Just moved to Austin and would really enjoy just meeting someone and getting to know the city. Love to do or go anywhere long as its fun. Up for anything. **mal06**, 19,  **#124208**


THAT FUNNY MONKEY
I'm 21...currently working toward a government degree...I love to laugh...i'm not looking for a serious relationship... maybe just someone to watch Chris Farley movies with...we'll see where it goes. **Chachi**, 21,  **#124173**


LOOKING TO DATE
I'm a 27 yr old grad student at Texas State U. and work full time. I like to do things outdoors. I love animals, football (go cowboys), arguing (not yelling). **tigertiff816**, 27,  **#123956**

COULD THIS WORK?
Not sure, but what the heck! I enjoy salsa dancing, traveling, family gatherings and good friends/company... I would like to find someone special with similar traits. **mexican_gordita**, 37,  **#123930**

FRIENDLY, LOVING, SMART
I am fairly well in the middle of the extrovert/introvert scale. I am a kind, interesting, intelligent, warm-hearted, and growing person. **aprilfourteenth**, 54,  **#123925**


I WALK FAST!
Am I delightful? why yes. **bintalbalad**, 46,  **#123836**


UNCOMMON DOWN2EARTH GEEK
Although computers encompass my time, I'd rather be in a horsebarn picking hooves or floating the San Marcos River. Life is not cookiecutter, so shoot for the good times. **javabirdy**, 45,  **#124435**


EASYGOING ADVENTUROUS FRIENDLY
When I'm not at work, you can find me shooting pool at Deep Eddy Cabaret or having a chocolate-espresso martini at Halcyon. I dig Sushi and Thai food. **NocLiq**, 24,  **#124431**


NERDY FUNNY ROCKNROLL
Fun loving guy looking for some intellectual stimulation and someone to laugh with. Someone to join me on spontaneous adventures, midnight movies, random house parties, and other enlightening experiences. **nerdtastic**, 23,  **#124427**

MUSICIAN SEEKING INSPIRATION
Unconventional , creative , good natured , honest , musician type seeks female counterpart who's also a creative type ,with her own life , to share free time with . **bigstevied**, 52,  **#124418**


THIS IS SPARTA!
i just wasted 8 of my 30 words! i'll stop using vowels! i lv astn. lrrng gd, tv bd. iv sn ghtlnd bsrvtry 8 tms. srry, n mr wrds lft. **phototype**, 38,  **#124417**


ISLANDBOY SEEKS CONVERSATIONCOFFEE
SciFi enhanced carbon based lifeform seeks complimentary unit for processing & field research. If naked windows turn you on drop me an email. **Nes-sius**, 30,  **#124411**

OUTDOORSY, GETTO REDNECK
Outdoors junkie. Tired of the club scene and ready to move on with my life. If you love the outdoors lets hang out, maybe we can teach each other something. **austinniceguy**, 30,  **#124398**


THREWORDSIISN'TENOUGHFOR AHEADLING... FOR REAL
If it makes you laugh atleast that's something. I recently moved here and I'm looking to meet people. Seriously, We don't need to hump I can just imagine it later... **indie_guy**, 28,  **#124389**


HELLO, DARLIN'
Creative, mischievous Texas gentleman. Off-beat tastes. I love cooking or eating good food and women who don't take themselves too seriously. Gardening and road trips, going out or staying in. **ginuwine_texan**, 49,  **#124376**


DARKLY ARTISTIC MUSICAN.
i have a morbid sense of humor and slight meglomaniacism. I am like that teddy bear with spikes that keeps humping the cat. I love music, but its not as fun alone. **tattoometal_inc**, 23,  **#124363**


RESTLESS HEART
Looking for an attractive, genuine, intelligent female in the Austin region to become a confidant, companion, trusted friend, passionate lover, kindred spirit and/or long term partner. Preferably in that order. **Estaven**, 54,  **#124360**

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
WALKING IN SPIRALS
Others might think one is walking in circles; it's actually an expanding spiral of learning. I'm a sailor/explorer/adventurer at heart, currently landlocked and bound for journeys to the inner realms... **Pelagian**, 53,  **#115321**


MOVIE-LOVIN' MAN
New to Austin (from NYC). Have some friends here, would love to meet new people to explore the city with. I love watching movies and anything creative: Writing, words, music. **Chuck1187**, 20,  **#124344**

LOYAL,NICE,TRUSTWORTHY
Texas music and Texas politics are my passions. Would like to meet a girl that enjoys seeing a good band and can be passionate about her politics. **Texas_Greatest**, 44,  **#124321**


AN AMERICAN GUY
I am not a Salesman so I need not Sell myself. Get to know me for who I am. **relay98**, 29,  **#124317**

NEW IN TOWN
im a nice guy i like hanging out with friends and meeting new people im looking for a girl that likes to joke around alot enjoys the outdoors. **MrBrightside**, 26,  **#124307**

FREE DATING ADVICE
Looking for someone who has a strange sense of humor, likes outdoors, bicycle or scooter riding, quirky music & movies. Non-religious or political, dislikes clubs and crowded, noisy places. **Johnny9**, 33,  **#124304**

IT'S ONLY ROCK
things in common-music/art/movies/books.. believes in laughter-has passions besides me-loves the outdoors/not afraid to be adventurous...can agree to disagree without feeling threatened...i am a person that believes these things are essential. **shipwreck**, 30,  **#124251**


women SEEKING women


FEMME 4 RELATIONSHIP
My name is Sarah... honestly looking for a relationship 20 y/o. Long. Blk hr, Drk Brwn lz, 5'4, 110, Brwn Skn Lotz of pics I hope you do to :D. **SekCBinX**, 20,  **#124419**


LOVE JIM MORRISON
I love the outdoors, music, and conversing with everyone I encounter. I believe at jumping at every opportunity, and if you are in a position to help others you should. **maryjane**, 20,  **#124326**


JUST LOOKING
Looking for a long time too. Can't find the right Bi woman. Could it be you? Guess I'll just cross my fingers and see. I'm pretty picky, but not Dicky. **LoversInParadise**, 50,  **#124333**


KINK_FREAK
So..I am a super cool chic, according to myself. I love the nightlife. I love gorgeous girls, not boy looking types. I'm always down for whatever. **tbozalicious**, 22,  **#124160**


LOUDLOVINGLOSER
outgoing, talkative person. i adore my friends, family & pets. lover of all music & film genres. can't beat a good live show! when paired with good company, makes for the best dates. **rieslingowl**, 20,  **#124126**

SIMPLE, FUNNY, DRAMALESS
Respectfully entirely too open minded. I process my thoughts before they leave my mouth. I like shows. I'm pretty funny, serious when needed, more glass full type. **Rebecca_Ann**, 24,  **#124084**


AWAKENED
I have been working on my artist project for awhile. Now I have the quality time to find friends and enjoy life. I'm very open, honest person but shy around people. **magic**, 50,  **#124075**

SKINNYDIP ANYONE?
like's animals, live shows, hot poeple, bubbles, movies/tv shows and barton springs. hate's tomato's, spelling, the mall, cigarettes and awkward moments. i like very pretty girls who are sure of themselves. **smile4me**, 18,  **#123970**

LANGUID, LAVISH LOVER
Soft nerd, 25-year old bookseller looking for casual dates and marathon rolls in the hay. Don't deny me the pleasure of your company. **Pippin**, 25,  **#123723**

OUTSPOKEN MUSIC LOVER
I love music, from rap to rock to spanish pop. I got tattoos, 0's gauges and piercings. Im a communications major with a sense of perverted humor who cooks mexican food ORALE! **mis-shexum**, 21,  **#123761**

men SEEKING men


PAPIMORENO
Slender, fit professional Latino seeking available fit guys for dating, open to a never-ending relationship. I enjoy dancing, working out, massaging, yoga. My best quality my huge heart. **124268**, 55,  **#124268**


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STILL LOOKING!

I've lived in Austin for 14 years and haven't met my match as of yet. I'm 34 years old, I have not been married and I do not have any children except for a young Scottish Terrier. I'm fun, spontaneous, outgoing, somewhat witty, like to flirt, I love all animals! I love to dance, hike, go to concerts, snow ski and other activities outdoors. I love cold weather. I am looking for someone for me to get to know and see where it goes. I know someone who is meant for me is out there somewhere!

read the rest of DEENADUB's profile
or enter your own profile for FREE online at
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TAKE THE PLUNGE
Stable single guy looking to meet nice guys for fun, friendship, and possible long term romance. I enjoy biking, dining, cooking, as well as quiet times at home. **timebuddy**, 53,  **#121119**

IS IT YOU?
Where have all the good men gone? I am hoping that you are still there and that you are looking for me too. GBM, 39, looking for you. **Colorado**, 39,  **#123381**

CUTE ITALIAN LEO
I am a poet, a writer, a digital graphic artist, a Romantic, a Macintosh guru and a funny guy. I love the outdoors: camping, hiking, picnicking. Oh, and I'm HIV-positive. **panepinto**, 42,  **#121697**

ATYPICAL, FLACO, EASY-GOING
Eclectic, smart, fun, professional, creative, curious, outdoors, DIY, garden, software, humor, travel. You please be relatively fit, mature, confident, diverse interests, traveled, down-to-earth, spirited, versatile. **divid0**, 48,  **#119363**

TATTOO 6TH STREET
You: Tall, dark, smoker. I would love to get lost in your enormous beard sometime. **When: Tuesday, December 11. Where: Custome tattoos from the soul. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902503**

MADD PANEL
You- across room from me wearing a red/white plaid shirt. Me- in jury stand, long brunette hair, black jacket staring and drooling !! 509 W. 11th. 9th floor!
D When: Wednesday, November 28. Where: MADD panel. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902502

CHEAPO SEPTUM PIERCING
Shocked by your presence, fumbling for words, couldn't think straight enough to give you the Cheapo discount. Come back for beer and tuna plate. I'll have my wits about me. **When: Monday, December 17. Where: shoal creek saloon. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902500**

TLC ELEVATOR
Coming out of elevator with table, you in grey suit. Almost smashed by elevator doors, trying to go down. Looked back and felt a connection. Let's meet somewhere without elevators. **When: Thursday, December 20. Where: tlc elevator. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902499**

MOWHAWK FREEBALLING BUSRIDER
Saw you on the #17 bus 12/19. Noticed your bare butt thru a tear on your jeans. I offered you a seat, you said you'd rather stand. You're very cute. **When: Wednesday, December 19. Where: Bus 17 East Austin. You: Man. Me: Man. #902498**

POST OFFICE ENCOUNTER
You: grey sweater, brown hair, sweet eyes, mailing to Michigan. Me: White tee, black hair, mailing to Minneapolis, too nervous to ask your name. Write me. Coffee? **When: Wednesday, December 19. Where: South Congress post office. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902497**

A CHAMPION DOE
You: Beautiful waitress, spectacular smile. Me: Hick at sport's bar We had whiskey and yew stole my heart. Occupy a bed n breakfast with me? I'll bring the dice. **WINK When: Thursday, December 13. Where: Heaven. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902496**

LAMA FOUNDATION
You got along well with my dog, so we talked about the Lama Foundation. When you left I was too shy to say anything, but wanted to... another chance? coffee? **When: Monday, December 17. Where: Bouldin Creek, Austin, TX. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902495**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Laid back, hopeless romantic, jeans and t-shirt type guy looking for Mr Right. Looking for a partner that I can boot-scoot through life. Looking for THE DANCE. **tkaustin**, 49,  **#119526**

REFRESHING AND QUIRKY
I'm a fun and free-spirited person. I love experiencing new things, meeting new people, and living life to the fullest. If this sounds like you, we'll get along quite nicely. **nightblindness**, 24,  **#118639**

SINGLE IN AUSTIN
Hopeless romantic, laid back, down to earth guy, interested in dating, new friendships, and more along the way. I'm looking for guys with good hearts, good head over their shoulders. **juan41381**, 26,  **#115939**

IT'S ALL GOOD!
Looking for a boyfriend? 48 yr. old Hispanic with a lot to offer! I am looking for someone who is SINGLE and honest, no drugs, is that you? Let me know. **HusbandMaterial**, 50,  **#115672**

TEX-MEX CONNECTION?
I'm a hostess at a popular restaurant, you were with your friends for a birthday party. I couldn't keep my eyes off of you. I'd love to get to know you. **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: Chuy's. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902493**

TOADIES SHOW
Incredible red headed beauty who shared a few Lone Stars and dances with me. Still thinking about what a great time we had. Share another Lone Star under the stars? **When: Friday, December 14. Where: Toadies Show. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902492**

JO'S SOCO EMPLOYEE
dark hair, tan skin. i think you are adorable and i want to know you. i think we should totally hang out. i'd ask you next time, but im shy **When: Monday, December 17. Where: jo's s. congress. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902491**

UGLY SWEATER PTY
met tube top shopping 12/15/07 you're not allowed but MAYBE we can meet again...wanna? nice backdrop. **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: ugly xmas sweater shopping. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902490**


MICHAEL AT CISCO-S.
You: Michael from St. Louis, real sweet, works for Cisco Systems. Me: long brown hair, same seat-row. Laughing about: water shortage, family hazards, Dostoevsky-- Fun! Join me for a drink? **When: Thursday, November 22. Where: SWAir flight to Houston. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902489**


WHOLEFOODS COOKING CLASS
I stopped you in the Wine/beer section asked if you could cook. You Jennifer(DELL sales)wearing a red sweater and black skirt who travels everywhere, me tall just moved lost your e-mail. **When: Thursday, November 29. Where: Whole Foods Lamar. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902488**


LADY "SPOON" GODIVA
I was meandering around the intertubes and happened upon you stunning visage. If you can forgive my cowardice and would like to chat please drop me a line. **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: A certain chronicle of a road to love. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902487**

WE MISSED ONCE
You: "whymihere" Me: "I've got the answer." You: Conventionally unconventional. Me: Unconventionally conventional. You've got the lock; I've got the key. Let's don't miss again. **When: Monday, December 3. Where: online. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902486**

JUST friends

LOVABLY ALOOF
I are me. **redalexistheseventh**, 24,  **#124423**

BLUE EYED BOY
I'm a kind and generous software engineer that would much rather be composing music, living off the grid somewhere in the mountains of NM, and am looking for new friends. **MazeRat**, 50,  **#124338**

COUPLE SEEKING FLIPSIDE-FRIENDS
Two cool kids out of college 23/24 y/old. Looking for like-minded couples or individuals to hang, listen to music, and smoke, while enjoying the hill country atmosphere - Flipside '08. **chiefdog**, 23,  **#124334**

OILCAN HARRY'S SHOTBOY
you were wearing black jeans.you have long brown hair! you're a shot boy at oilcan harry's. you looked busy. i was wearing a purple hoodie. we should grab a drink! **When: Saturday, December 15. Where: OilCan Harry's. You: Man. Me: Man. #902485**

TOM RUTA MAYA
Wearing stripes both nights. Professor was in the band, I was your waitress. Bumped into you at Ruta Maya, both history majors. Wanted to talk more. Coffee sometime? **When: Friday, December 14. Where: Patsys, Ruta Maya. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902484**

DEVIN THRIFT SHOP
Thursday 13.You asked if I was seeing her. I lied. We broke up last month. I'm sorry.I felt electric every time you past me by. Second chance? **When: Thursday, December 13. Where: stasney and manchaca. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902483**

MOTORHEAD FOX GIRL
Tuesday 12/11/07 (I think), the exact moment the Central library opened; I was queued when you walked past, all in black, with a MOTORHEAD PURSE-I ME: Motorhead bandana, Find Me! **When: Tuesday, December 11. Where: Downtown. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902482**


TRAINING @ RINGERS
You: waitress with a wonderful smile Me: Blue Moon Drink sometime? **When: Thursday, December 13. Where: Ringers. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902481**


BEARDED IN INTERSECTION
You were crossing the street outside Whole Foods when we made eye contact. You bearded in a Keep Austin Weird Shirt. Me bearded in a button down shirt and jeans. **When: Saturday, December 8. Where: Outside Whole Foods. You: Man. Me: Man. #902480**


TRUDY'S CENTRAL WEDNESDAY.
OK...you were a beautiful blonde with awesome eyes and perfect teeth. You were wearing a cream colored suede jacket and with a lot of friends. Go online for more. **When: Wednesday, December 12. Where: Trudy's central. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902479**

DEC2 ABIA PARKINGA
We said "hi" on shuttle to parking lot. I was wearing a green/white ballcap. I caught a bug/wrong shuttle. U left in white Ford PU? Let's finish our hello's **When: Sunday, December 2. Where: ABIA Shuttle to Parking "A". You: Man. Me: Woman. #902478**

Cindie's

GNARLY?, KILLER?, COUNTRY?.....REALLY?
HONESTLY?!.....I signed up so I could send ms_stone a message :). **Real_Name**, 33,  **#124252**

SHORT N SWEET
Short and sweet is my name, making friends is my game. Think you can outcheese me? I dare you to give it a go. **VanaloveOo**, 18,  **#124156**

NEW TO AUSTIN
I'm new to Austin and looking for some new friends to go out with at night. I'm smart, sarcastic, and professional and really, I'm just looking to have fun. **puckplayer**, 22,  **#124100**

messages

OH BEAUTIFUL AUSTIN, i've missed you so much.

KEVIN BOEING EVERETT
Kevin on Flight 41 Southwest flight from Little Rock Arkansas to Dallas.We hit it off talked the whole way.I should have gotten your number.Thanks for the hug.-Gabrielle **When: Monday, November 26. Where: South West flight 41 & Dallas Airport. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902477**

XXX JENNA XXX
I met you a year ago, and you're still in my dreams. I bet you \$1 you see the ad this week. **When: Monday, December 18, 2006. Where: Austin. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902476**

ZIGGY STARDUST- 12/10
So much stardust in my eyes, couldn't tell if you were with someone or not. You paused for a while at my row looking for a seat.I was wearing a beret. **When: Monday, December 10. Where: Alamo Downtown. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902475**

STARBUCKS
you: short blonde hair, laptop, headphones, accompanied by a beautiful smile. Me: shirt, tie, leaving... shared a smile. interested in grabbing a drink sometime?? New to austin. **When: Tuesday, December 11. Where: starbucks. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902474**

MAGGIE MAE'S 12/7
By bar on patio. You: white outfit with gold belt celebrating friend's 21st birthday. Me: maroon polo shirt. We made eyes several times and I let you walk away. **When: Friday, December 7. Where: Maggie Mae's Patio. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902473**

RUNAWAY JUSTIN
thought we mite runaway 2 mexico but i think you forgot to check to see if i was still behind you. lost yr#, don't think twice, just call back, ok?! **When: Saturday, July 7. Where: barflies n a hindi dance party. lol. You: Man. Me: Woman. #902472**

ONE DOLLAR BLING
Cuties rapping and buying plastic mouth bling. Two adorable brunettes in glasses. I was in line behind you and saw your photo fun. I couldn't pick a favorite, double date? **When: Sunday, December 9. Where: 51st Street Dollar Tree. You: Woman. Me: Man. #902471**

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FREE WILL ASTROLOGY

by Rob Brezсны for December 28 - January 3

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19): The Greek philosopher Aristotle said that when new facts and ideas emerge, we should be willing to coin fresh words to convey the unfamiliar information. Do you agree? If so, be ready to dream up a steady stream of new terms in 2008. I bet you'll encounter more novelty than you have since 1996. Dead language and stale clichés won't be sufficient to wrestle the meaning out of your unprecedented experiences. To jumpstart your receptivity to made-up words, try this one: *freakomancy*. It refers to the art of divining the future by noticing the most unusual and anomalous elements present in any given situation.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18): One of the planet's highest active volcanoes is Mount Cotopaxi in Ecuador. It also happens to be the site of the world's only equatorial glacier. Please visit this complex place sometime in 2008. If that's not possible, at least promise me that you will vividly imagine yourself there. Why? Because in order to bring out the best in yourself in the coming months, I think you will need to be fueled by a visceral sense of what it's like when primal opposites coexist.

PISCES (FEB. 19-MARCH 20): When I first learned about Jupiter in grade school, my science textbook said the planet had 12 moons. Years later, thanks to better telescopes and data returned by America's Voyager spacecrafts, we know that at least 63 moons are orbiting the solar system's largest planet. I expect an equally dramatic expansion will unfold for you in 2008, Pisces. At this time next year, your social network should be much bigger than it is now. You may even be at the center of a Jovian-style web of connections.

ARIES (MARCH 21-APRIL 19): When the Red Hot Chili Peppers released their fifth album *Blood Sugar Sex Magik* in 1991, it blasted them into rock stardom. They stopped performing at intimate nightclubs and appeared exclusively at large arenas. They won a Grammy, had a hit song at the top of the charts, and sold millions of records. Guitarist John Frusciante freaked out at the success. As an indie artist intensely loyal to the underground sensibility, he was embarrassed to be in a band that had mainstream popularity. In the middle of the Chili Peppers' tour, he quit. You may very well have to deal with a comparable development in 2008, Aries. Will you opt to remain low-profile, as Frusciante did, or will you answer the invitation to get more professional?

TAURUS (APRIL 20-MAY 20): When China's Three Gorges Dam finally becomes fully operational in 2009, the hydroelectric power it generates will provide renewable energy to a sizable portion of the population. As a replacement for coal consumption, it will also eliminate 100 million tons of greenhouse gases. That's the good news. The bad news is that it will require a thousand towns and villages to be permanently flooded, forcing over a million people to leave their homes. I believe you may be faced with a comparable option in 2008, Taurus. If you're willing to deal with displacement and the loss of traditions, you will gain access to tremendous reserves of pure mojo.

GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20): Would you like to own a 60-inch flat-screen HD plasma television with surround-sound speakers? How about a \$6,000 Daniel Hanson bathrobe made of silk-trimmed pashmina, a diamond-encrusted Cartier Luxury watch, and a heated toilet seat? All of these wonders and more could be within your grasp in 2008. In my astrological opinion, however, going after them would be a waste of your substantial acquisitive potential, which would be better used in pursuit of less decadent valuables. Such as? Such as tools and training that will help you upgrade your skills and refine the unique gifts you have to give the world.

CANCER (JUNE 21-JULY 22): For millennia, human beings have sought and received help from spiritual beings who are imperceptible to the senses. "Among the North American Indians, but not among them alone," wrote Carl Jung's gifted student Erich Neumann (1905-1960), "the essential content of initiation is the acquisition of an individual 'guardian spirit.'" It's unfortunate that modern Western culture, still in the chokehold of the materialist delusion, makes it challenging for anyone alive today to tap into the supernatural blessings that so many of our forbears enjoyed. But I believe you will be able to overcome this disadvantage in 2008, Cancerian. There's a good chance you will figure out what it takes to establish direct communion with a spiritual ally.

LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22): Picture a full-grown lion with a thin, 2-foot-long string tied around one of its back legs. The other end of the string is tethered to a short wooden stake lodged in the dirt. The lion seems to think it's held captive, and never tries to escape. It's restless and frustrated, periodically emitting a doleful sound that's both a pained growl and a mournful whine. I want you to think of this scene at least once a month in 2008, Leo. Each time, ask yourself, "Am I the lion that Rob Brezсны described?" Make sure you always know that you can snap the string with ease and bound away to freedom.

VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22): The desert-dwelling creosote bush can survive for centuries on little water. In the Mohave Desert there is a ring of creosote, named "King Clone," whose age has been carbon-dated at 11,700 years. The hardness of this low-maintenance wonder reminds me of you, Virgo. You sometimes entertain the fantasy that the less you need, the stronger you'll be. The downside of this attitude is that you may unwittingly make it hard for people to give you their gifts. The upside is that you've learned many secrets about how to nurture and take care of yourself. But in 2008, I foresee you making a shift away from the creosote bush metaphor. You're more likely to resemble a tomato bush that gets watered regularly.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22): Lake Vostok is as big as Lake Ontario, but no one on earth knew about it until 1996. Scientists who had been drilling through Antarctica's thick sheets of ice discovered it two miles below the surface. Here's what they were able to find out about the ancient lake: Hermetically sealed off for at least a half million years, it gets no sunlight, has an average temperature below zero, and may harbor life forms as exotic as those on other planets. And yes, it's in a liquid state, for reasons you can read about at tinyurl.com/2lq79d. All that, Libra, is prelude to the following announcement: Lake Vostok will be one of your prime metaphors in 2008. I predict you will dig deep to discover an ancient, pristine mystery at the bottom of your life. In my astrological opinion, you should explore it thoroughly, driven by both an innocent sense of wonder and a robust analytical curiosity.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21): You're pretty smart, Scorpio, but would you like to become even smarter in 2008? It's quite possible that you will get more skilled at managing and solving your personal problems. You may also become a better judge of character and develop a brilliant knack for knowing what's good for you. There's one main thing you have to do in order to ensure that you will fully activate these potentials: Become more generous. Here's your thought for the year, courtesy of Eleanor Roosevelt: "The giving of love is an education in itself."

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21): The number of millionaires on the planet increased more than 9% last year. Judging from the astrological omens, I'm betting that the growth rate in the coming year will be similar. A disproportionately large amount of the newly wealthy in 2008, however, will be Sagittarians. And even those of you who don't make it to a million will probably get richer quicker than you have in more than a decade – especially if you make that your intention.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezсны's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 877/873-4888 or 909/950-7700.

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